

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24-25, 1987

Arms for Iran

Soviets link embargo to US withdrawal

MOSCOW, Dec 23 (UPI): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said yesterday the Soviet Union would consider supporting an arms embargo against Iran to help end the Iran-Iraq war.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said Moscow is ready to discuss a UN arms embargo to force Iran to end its war with Iraq, but he linked the sanction to a withdrawal of US warships from the Gulf.

Gorbachev told Jordanian King Hussein during a meeting at the Kremlin that the Soviet Union believes UN Security Council resolution 598 can help end the conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The resolution calls for a ceasefire in the Gulf and threatens a subsequent resolution imposing sanctions if Iran or Iraq refuses to accept the truce. Iraq has said it would accept a ceasefire, but Iran has neither accepted nor rejected it.

Progress

Hussein said he favours an arms embargo against Iran because of the lack of progress toward peace since the resolution was approved July 20 and because of Iran's refusal to comply with the decisions of the Security Council, Tass reported.

Means

Petrovsky said the removal of US forces from the Gulf is not a "precondition" for Soviet support of an arms embargo, but he underscored the linkage by proposing simultaneous talks aimed at replacing Western warships with a UN naval force.

But King Hussein appeared to split with his Soviet hosts, saying that US warships did not have to be removed from the Gulf until the fighting ended.

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Tel: 2442174**Mitterrand rules out pull back from Gulf**

PARIS, Dec 23. (Reuters): President Francois Mitterrand, interviewed on the bridge of the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, today ruled out any quick pull-back of France's naval task force from the Gulf region.

The Socialist President was responding to suggestions that France would reduce its naval presence thanks to a warming of ties with Iran which led to the release of two French hostages in Beirut last month.

"The task force's mission is not over," Mitterrand said in a French television interview broadcast from the Clemenceau at the mouth of the Red Sea.

"The time to pull back the fleet has not come," the President added, while refusing to predict how long it would stay.

Protect

France has about 20 ships, or roughly one third of its Navy, in the Gulf region and Indian Ocean to protect French shipping in the hazardous waterway.

French commentators said Mitterrand's remarks would reassure Arab countries, concerned that Paris may be tilting towards Iran in the hope of freeing French hostages held by pro-Tehran groups in Lebanon.

France is a major military and financial backer of Iraq, Tehran's enemy in the seven-year-old Gulf war. It supplies Mirage warplanes, Exocet anti-ship missiles and other materiel.

Mitterrand said France would not sacrifice its interests — an apparent reference to its pro-Iraqi stand to free the three remaining French hostages in Beirut.

It is the first Western head of state to go to the area to show support for the naval forces in the Gulf.

UN raps Israel's repressive measures

(Continued from Page 1)

Israel's handling of unrest in the occupied territories.

In Amman, Jordan's Minister in Charge of Occupied Territories, Marwan Doudin, welcomed the resolution but deplored the US abstention.

Syria declared today that the UN resolution showed the Arab cause was lost at the United Nations.

"What is the use of the Security Council decision when it does not direct the responsibility of the crimes at the Zionist criminals and does not say who the aggressor is ..." asked the ruling Arab Baath party daily Al-Baath.

New Zealand also said it deplored the shooting of civilians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and urged Israel to protect inhabitants of the territories.

Bulgaria has asked Israel to stop using firearms to control Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

PLO debates

TUNIS, Dec 23, (Reuters): The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), whose leadership is in crisis session over violence in the Israeli-occupied territories, is considering the creation of a government-in-exile, a senior PLO official said today.

The idea, which has been proposed and rejected in the past, was discussed by PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his 15-member executive committee at meetings in Tunis, a spokesman for a PLO group represented at the meetings told Reuters.

"One of the ideas being discussed is a government-in-exile which, at the right moment, would declare the establishment of an independent state in the occupied territories," Jamil Helal, spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said.

Patrols

In Bethlehem, the hilltop town where Jesus was born, beefed-up patrols of Israeli soldiers were seen in the streets. In Manger Square, only a few tourist buses were in evidence.

Egypt and Jordan welcomed today the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Boutros Boutros Ghali, said it marked the world's denunciation of Israeli practices in the lands it has held since 1967.

Its importance, he said, "lies in citing continued Israeli occupation as the reason for the deterioration of the situation in

Filipino ferry tragedy**Scores of bodies wash ashore**

MANILA, Dec 23, (Agencies): Scores of bodies — some possibly eaten by sharks — surfaced today from the wreck of the Dona Paz as distraught relatives hurled rocks and abuse at the shipping lines offices, lamenting their "Christmas ... of the dead."

Officials of Sulpicio Lines, the ship's owners, filed a formal complaint blaming the crew of the oil tanker Victor for the Sunday night collision and fire that took more than 2,000 lives in the worst peacetime shipping disaster of the 20th century.

Rescue agencies, offering conflicting figures, reported between 131 and 141 bodies had been recovered by nightfall, most of them bloated and burned from the explosion and fire that ripped through the packed coastal ferry when the Victor rammed it amid ships in fog and darkness.

Refused

Coast Guard spokesman Cipriano Lupso refused to confirm radio reports that some of the bodies had been mangled, apparently by sharks. But Sulpicio Lines vice-president Vicente Gambito said one of the line's vessels was bringing in "18 1/2 bodies" recovered near the scene of the wreck.

Local residents threatened to bury the bodies of 10 dead women, of whom two had been pregnant, that lay decomposing for the second day in Naujan village on Mindoro island, about 10 miles (16 km) from the wreck site.

"What we need here are not conflicting reports of how many were killed," said the mayor in a radio interview. "What we need is for the government to help us get the bodies out of here. The stench is too much."

Lupso said only six bodies had arrived in Manila, where about 50 people marched to the office of President Corazon Aquino, carrying signs with slogans such as "show them to us dead or alive," and "our Christmas is a day of the dead."

Denied

On Mindoro island, near the site of the disaster, a Philippine constabulary sergeant denied reports that a four-year-old boy had been rescued yesterday after floating for two days on a piece of timber.

Government radio operators reported yesterday that the boy was rescued by fishermen in the Mindoro island towns of Pinamayaan, about 130 miles (208 kilometres) south of Manila and about 20 miles (32 kilometres) from where the vessels collided on a moonless night.

But Tech. Sgt. Victor Yap said the boy was not from the two stricken vessels but had been injured on an outing with his father.

Yap attributed early reports that the child was from the Dona Paz to "confusion" in a small, isolated community that has become the focal point of the search for survivors.

Compensated

Some 200 people mobbed the Sulpicio Lines offices, shaking fists and throwing a rock through a window when they were told they would be compensated only if their relatives' bodies were found. "We don't need the money, we want the bodies," screamed one woman.



Villagers retrieve bodies of ferry disaster victims from the waters of the central island of Mindoro. (Reuters photo)

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INTERNATIONAL

Filipino communists accept ceasefire

MANILA, Dec 23, (AP): Communist rebels said today they will not launch attacks on Christmas eve and Christmas Day but pledged to continue their struggle "until the masses of the people are finally set free."

The statement by the National Democratic Front, delivered to news organisations today, also thanked foreign and local groups for their support.

"The National Democratic Front extends its warmest Christmas greetings to the people of the Philippines and to all men of good will," the rebels said.

"Today, Dec 24 and on Dec 25, the people's armed forces in all our areas of operation will stop all military offensives against fixed armed forces of the Philippines targets," it added.

The statement made no mention of any true Jan 1. President Corazon Aquino has ordered the military to refrain from offensive operations Thursday, Friday and on New Year's day.

The rebel statement also expressed "our profound gratitude to all our friends, here and abroad, who have gen-

erously shared their material, intellectual and moral resources in support of our people's difficult struggle for national and social emancipation."

The rebels did not identify such groups, but the military claims the front receives financial assistance from leftist groups in Western Europe, Japan and Australia.

The front is an umbrella organisation of 12 Marxist groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Last month, the front claimed responsibility for the Oct 28 murders of three Americans outside the giant Clark Air Base, 80 kilometres north of Manila.

"Day after day, in the humble dwellings of our countrymen, we discover the spirit of Christmas, which is the spirit of brotherhood, justice and compassion," the statement added.

"Shoulder to shoulder with them, we pledge to fight on until the masses of the people are finally set free and peace and prosperity shall reign over our land."

Italian photographer missing in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Dec 23, (AP): An Italian photographer is missing and believed captured by Afghan guerrillas based in Peshawar, in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, routinely take Western journalists into Afghanistan to report on the 8-year-old war.

The pro-Soviet Kabul government allows Western reporters into the country only on government-organised tours.

Najibullah Lasrai, a leader of the Jamiat-e-Islami, said from Peshawar that in October, Balisavo abandoned his group in Panchir and joined another group of two Australian journalists and guerrillas.

When they returned to Pakistan, he stayed behind to complete his reporting. Since then, all contact with him has been lost.

Lasrai said he was almost certain that Balisavo was captured by the Afghan Army.

"We're not sure, but circumstances show that there is a 99 per cent chance that he was captured," he added.

Laghami is in eastern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border.

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Khomeini relax
Khomeini lifts ban on TV films

ATHENS, Dec 23, (UPI): Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini has lifted "religious impediments" on the broadcast by the state television of foreign films and "most songs". Tehran radio reported.

The radio quoted Khomeini as saying in a "fatwa" or religious decree there were no religious impediments on foreign films and "most songs," though "on certain rare occasions" the broadcasters made "some mistakes" and "greater attention was needed."

The Ayatollah was replying to a query by Radio and Television managing director Mohammad Hashemi following criticism by some Iranian clergymen of recent television programmes, Tehran residents reached by telephone said.

Hashemi is a brother of Iranian Parliament Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Western diplomats saw the criticism as part of the internal power struggle and intended to embarrass the speaker, often billed as Iran's most powerful cleric after Khomeini.

Khomeini's latest decree indicated the Ayatollah has mellowed since 1979, when he sent minor shockwaves through cultural circles around the globe by declaring music "sinful", the diplomats said.

The Tehran residents said the family of the late Prime Minister Javad Bahonar was among those who criticised certain films and a domestically-made television serial broadcast recently.

Three die in ambush

Sri Lanka party chief killed

COLOMBO, Dec 23, (AP): Sinhalese extremists shot and killed the chairman of President Junius Jayewardene's United National Party and three other people today, authorities said.

The two assassins ambushed the victim's car with a machine gun at an intersection and escaped on a stolen bicycle. Army Col Vijaya Wimalaratna said.

The killings came three days after Jayewardene vowed to wipe out Sinhalese extremists who have been assassinating his supporters.

United National Party chairman Harsha Abeywardene, his driver, a bodyguard and another aide were killed when at least 21 bullets were fired at their Korean-made car, a police detective said.

The government has blamed the People's Liberation Front, composed of ultra-nationalist Sinhalese, for the deaths of about 150 policemen, government officials and United National Party members in the past five months.

Tax raids on Maharishi net \$30,000

NEW DELHI, Dec 23, (Reuter): Tax raids on four offices of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in and around Delhi netted unaccounted Indian and foreign currency totalling about \$30,000 and jewellery worth the same amount, a Finance Ministry source said today.

The source, quoted by the Press Trust of India, said Tuesday's raids also turned up incriminating documents.

A senior Finance Ministry official said the directorate of foreign exchange seizures had been informed with a view to possible further action.

Although the Maharishi's headquarters are in Switzerland, as an Indian citizen he is governed by the strict Foreign Exchange Act which controls the import and export of wealth.

The Maharishi, 77, best remembered in the West as the Guru who instructed the Beatles in the 1960s, was ordered by a US court earlier this year to pay \$138,000 damages to a devotee.

Wimalaratna, military coordinating officer in Colombo, said the two attackers pedalled up to a bicycle repair shop near the intersection and asked to have a new tube put in the bike's front tyre.

While they waited for the repair job, they stood at a nearby intersection with a Chinese-made T56 submachine gun concealed inside eight wooden planks tied together with string, the colonel said.

A police officer quoted witnesses as saying that while the two men were waiting, two other men rode by on a motorcycle and apparently told the ambushers that Abeywardene's car was approaching.

Many Sinhalese have accused Jayewardene, himself a Sinhalese, of making too many concessions to the Tamils who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Meanwhile, an Indian helicopter gunship fired on and sank a boat carrying Tamil rebels off Sri Lanka's east coast, an Indian spokesman said.

The spokesman told reporters in New Delhi that five Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam rebels died in Monday's attack north of the port city of Batticaloa.

UN urged to deploy troops

Syrians in W. Beirut rotated

BEIRUT, Dec 23, (AP): The Syrian Army rotated its contingent in West Beirut today and a Christian militia commander urged the United Nations to deploy peacekeeping troops throughout strife-torn Lebanon.

It was the first rotation of the 7,500-strong Syrian contingent since it deployed in the Western sector of the Lebanese capital Feb 22 in an attempt to curb the chaotic reign of feuding militias.

Troops were seen boarding trucks and leaving from various West Beirut positions as fresh units rolled in under heavy rains.

Lebanese police sources said the incoming troops came from Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli and that the departing units headed for north Lebanon.

The Syrians maintain an estimated 25,000 troops in northern and eastern provinces under a 1976 Arab League mandate to halt the civil war, which has claimed more than 130,000 lives since it erupted in 1975.

That mission still is elusive and there are no signs of an early reconciliation between warring Muslims and Christians.

Samir Geagea, commander of the Christians' principal Lebanese Forces militia, has sent a

Abeywardene, 32, was elected to his third term as party chairman earlier this month. He was first elected chairman in 1984, advancing from the post of party secretary.

Boat

The People's Liberation Front has vowed to kill anyone who supports the July 29 peace pact Jayewardene signed with India. The accord was designed to end a guerrilla war by Tamil rebels fighting for a separate nation for their ethnic minority.

Many Sinhalese have accused Jayewardene, himself a Sinhalese, of making too many concessions to the Tamils who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people.

Members of the Batticaloa Citizens Committee also reported the attack. They said four men died when the boat sank, but that they did not know if the men were Tamil fighters.

The Indian spokesman said yesterday that three other rebels and one Indian soldier were killed in the past 24 hours.

"Can we allow terrorists to kill political supporters and officials of this government? We cannot do that. We will have to kill these terrorists," the President told members of his United National Party at a meeting at Hambarota, a southern coast city in the Sinhalese heartland.

About 25,000 Indian soldiers are in northern and eastern Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil rebels, but they have not been involved in Jayewardene's campaign against Sinhalese extremists.

About 10,000 Sri Lankan police and military personnel have been deployed in the south in an effort to subdue Sinhalese extremists. Hundreds of suspects have been rounded up, officials said last week.

US oilman released in Nigeria

LAGOS, Dec 23, (Reuters): US oil executive Herbert Rooks flew out of Nigeria on Tuesday night nearly four months after he was detained by security police, apparently in connection with a \$150 million oil dispute.

A British Caledonian Airline official in Lagos told Reuters that Rooks, 58, boarded the scheduled night flight to London. He was understood to be en route to his way home in Texas.

Rooks, a director of Panoco (Pan Ocean Oil Corporation), was arrested by Nigeria's State Security Service last August 12 with his two Swiss bodyguards. All three were detained for 100 days before they were released into the custody of their embassies last month, and their passports were withheld.

"Mr Rooks got his passport yesterday," a worker at the US embassy guest quarters told Reuters today.

Bodyguard

A Swiss diplomat in Lagos declined to say whether the bodyguards were also able to return home, and referred callers to the Foreign Ministry in Bern.

Nigerian authorities have made no official statements about Rooks and have pressed no criminal charges.

But he appeared to have become embroiled in a dispute between his Geneva-based company and the Nigerian military government over oil listings in 1984 and 1985.

Nigerian oil officials have said Panoco owed the country about \$150 million, alleging breach of contract.

Rooks, who said he joined Panoco from Gulf Oil in 1985 after the contract had expired, shunned publicity in the weeks preceding his departure.

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1987
150 PAGES

OPEC talks on

Families appeal to free US hostages

BEIRUT, Dec 23, (AP): Families of American hostages held in Lebanon appealed today for their kidnappers to free the captives as a goodwill gesture over Christmas and the New Year.

"We have all suffered enough and there is nothing to be gained but more pain in continuing to deny these men their freedom," said a letter signed by "families of US hostages in the United States."

The letter to the captors and another for the hostages were sent to an international news agency in West Beirut.

Nine Americans are missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon with most being held by pro-Iranian fundamentalists. The captives include journalist Terry Anderson and academic Thomas Sutherland, both heading for their third Christmas in the hands of the Islamic Jihad group.

Addressing the hostages, the families said they approached the holiday season "with heavy hearts because you are not with us. We love you and work and pray for your freedom every day."

They called on God to give their captive loved ones strength and courage.

The families said they shared "mutual pain" and grieved with American Elaine Colett, the wife of British journalist Alec Colett, 66, who was abducted in West Beirut on March 25, 1985.

A group calling itself the Revolutionary Organisation of Socialist Muslims said it killed Colett by hanging him in April 1986 to revenge US air strikes on Libya. His body has not been recovered.

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Prices are higher than at market

Co-operatives come under criticism

COMPLAINTS against co-operative society supermarkets have been growing lately, with claims of financial and administrative violations, different prices for the same commodities at various supermarkets, and higher prices than at other markets.

A consumer, Hassan Al Najadah, told a local newspaper that the cooperative societies should carry out some social work but they only look for profits. The government gives the societies plots of land free of charge and also provides many facilities, but the residents do not get any services in return.

He claimed that directors left societies bankrupt and members got KD 17 or even less as profit. He believed these problems were

caused by unqualified board members. He called on officials to follow up the situation and said the government should take stricter measures.

Clean

Another person, Fadel Issa, said that the expiry date of some commodities had passed but the goods were still being sold, and called on officials to be careful about this. Some supermarkets were clean but others were not and were also badly organised. Cooperatives should employ more qualified youths. He said checking was poor and pointed out that financial matters should not be left to the directors only.

The director of the cooperative department at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry, Mohammed Al Khandari,

said the department checked the societies thoroughly, with inspections made daily. Any violations were subject to penalties.

Regarding prices, he said the department concentrated more on essential commodities and did not allow any price differences. He said cooperatives had supermarkets with many branches, and violations were to be expected.

He said the current cooperative law needed to be reconsidered because it did not provide stability for board members. He said the ministry was preparing to amend some articles of the cooperative law to meet the current market situation. He said the system lacked modern scientific methods in both administration and policy.

The director of the supply and consumer protection department, Abdulla Al Mulla, said the prices were indicated by the department and price checks were carried out by inspectors. He said the department also made sure that products were available to consumers at all times and that the government provided large subsidies for many products.

He said that variation in prices of commodities at cooperatives supermarkets was a good thing because it encouraged cooperatives with higher prices to reduce them in order not to lose customers.

He said the cooperative system was a free one, and the department could not object to matters outside their authority.

Environment fund planned

PUBLIC Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi who is also chairman of the Kuwait Environment Protection Council, yesterday said that the council has decided to set up a fund for enlightenment of the public to the merits of preserving environment in the country.

During a regular meeting of the council on Tuesday night, the decision was also taken to encourage cooperation and coordination between the parties concerned to support scientific research in that field.

The meeting was also briefed about the last month meeting in Riyadh of the GCC Environment ministers and the Kuwait report to the international maritime environment conference in Italy last October, Dr Awadi said.

New guest house

THE daily Al Seyassah reported that the Dasman Guesthouse, located on Arabian Gulf Street, will be closed as of the beginning of the new year. A new guesthouse for government guests will be opened at the Conference Palace in the Bayan area as of January 1.

14 accidents

THERE were 14 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday. Three accidents occurred in the capital, two in Hawalli and nine in Al Ahmadi.

Toefl registration

ARAB Students Aid International announced that Monday, Dec 28, is the deadline for Toefl registration for the test which will be held on Feb 12, 1988.

Those interested in registering their names for this test, should contact the ASAII office located at Al Rai, Shaikh Al Farsi Building, Tel. 4735777.

Kennedy holds talks with Oman Air Force chiefs

MUSCAT, Dec 23. (AP) US Senator Edward Kennedy held talks today with Air Force chiefs of the sultanate that shares its coastline with Iran on the Strait of Hormuz, strategic gateway to the troubled Gulf waterway.

US diplomatic sources said the senator was also to hold discussions with Deputy Prime Ministers Fahd Al Said and Qais Al-Zawawi on the situation in the region.

Kennedy will be flying out later to the US carrier Battlegroup in the Arabian Sea.

Assessment

Kennedy chose to spend Christmas this year with the American sailors aboard the US Navy warships that have been dispatched to the region to help safeguard freedom of navigation against Iranian threats in the spillovers of the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

The warship calls started with a meeting Tuesday with Admiral Harold Bremser, commander of the 11-US Middle East force a board command vessel La Salle.

But he is also set for a first-band assessment of the role that the US Navy is playing in the region and the developments of the situation in light of the continued absence of progress toward a peace settlement of the Gulf war.

The senator started his Gulf swing on Tuesday with a visit to Bahrain. He met with the Amir, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman, Al Khalifa and the Crown Prince and Defence Chief Sheikh Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa.

He is to visit Kuwait on Thursday before teaming up with US Navymen once again for Christmas eve and Christmas day on different warships, this time those patrolling inside the Gulf.

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The talks in Kuwait will deal with matters of security, of international terrorism as well as on drug trafficking problems.

Austrian minister to visit Kuwait

VIENNA, Dec 23. (Kuna) Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha will pay a three-day official visit to Kuwait next Saturday at the invitation of his Kuwaiti counterpart, Interior Minister sources told Kuna today.

The Austrian Minister, who is also president of the Society for Austrian-Arab Relations as well as a deputy chairman of the Austrian Socialist Party and one of the party's delegates in parliament's national council here, will be accompanied by the head of the state police department Dr Anton Schulz, the head of the ministry's bureau Bernhard and Dr. Karl Newole, the minister's personal assistant.

The talks in Kuwait will deal with matters of security, of international terrorism as well as on drug trafficking problems.

THE popular uprising of Palestinians under the Israeli occupation was highly praised by a number of ministers, dignitaries and senior officials in Kuwait.

They stressed that the uprising was the right reply to the enemy occupation of Palestine and their aggression against the Palestinians and the Arab world.

State Minister for Housing Affairs, Nasser Al Rodhan, said people should be very proud of this great uprising. He said the "stones revolution" had made many heroic stands that forced the arrogant Zionist enemy to ask for truce. It was noted to see Palestinian children making the Zionist enemy "live in total disruption and fear." The Palestinians under occupation were not stopped by the most harsh atrocities and oppressive meth-

ods used by the Israeli Army against them. He stressed that Kuwait would always be with the Palestinian people and would do what it could for their cause.

Public Works Minister Abdul Rahman Al Houti said the Palestinian uprising came to silence all the voices that said the Palestinian cause was closed, adding that the Palestinians had yet again proved to the whole world that their cause will never die.

The present uprising showed that the attachment of Palestinians to their occupied land grew greater as the years went by. It also proved that the Palestinians were a people who would never forget their rights and would sacrifice for it.

Iraq's Ambassador to Kuwait, Assem Yacoub Yousif, said the current uprising in the occupied territories was a clear expression of the Zionist oppression and suppression of the Palestinians.

He described the present generation as the "generation of stones." He hoped the uprising would be a good example for the whole Arab nation to revolt against the present situation and head in the right path to victory.

He said it was the duty of every Arab and Muslim to support the revolution.

Syria's Ambassador to Kuwait, Dr Issa Darwish, said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was the uprising of the whole Arab nation.

He said the "stone children" of Palestine were writing history for the Arab nation. He added that the stones used by the people in the occupied lands had left no place for words and speeches.

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EVENTS**Cafe-style dining****Table Talk**

BY DINAH

THE coffee shops of the hotels of Kuwait vary greatly in standards of comfort, decor, service and cuisine, ranging from the elegance of places like La Brasserie at the Meridien Hotel to simpler, more functional cafeteria-style coffee shops like that of the Plaza Hotel. The Gardenia coffee shop of the Kuwait Continental Hotel falls into the latter category. The decorator has used brass, marble and cool shades of blue to give this small restaurant a light and cheerful atmosphere. Brass-framed prints of flowers, floral curtains and plants create the theme. In warmer weather glass doors open onto a terrace, which I should imagine is rather a noisy place to eat, as it overlooks a busy traffic island.

The Gardenia is very popular with Kuwaiti families, especially those with small children. Catering to their taste perhaps, Arabic tunes were played relentlessly on an electric organ. The term "organ grinder" took on a whole new meaning for me and the Gardenia is certainly not the place to go if you want a quiet conversation or to linger over a relaxing meal. The tiny tables were just about big enough to play a game of cards on, but inadequate for dining.

Menu

The Gardenia offers a choice of à la carte menu or buffet. The menu is reasonably priced with most dishes under KD3 and contains some interesting Middle Eastern dishes as well as curries. As we were short of time, we opted for the buffet. The salad bar offered a small selection with some unusual ideas such as a bean-sprout salad and very tasty seafood salad with chopped vegetables.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.15 am	5.16 am
Zahr	11.48	11.48
Asr	2.38 pm	2.38
Maghreb	4.56	4.57
Isha	6.19	6.19

CINEMA TODAY**CINEMA**

Al Andalus
Born American
Starring: Mike Norris,
Steve Durham

Al Salmiya
Ruthless People
Starring: Danny DeVito

Al Hamra
Li 'Adam Kifayah Al
Adalah (Arabic)
Starring: Najla Fathi,
Yusra, Salab Saadani

Drive-In
Jara Al Wuhroos (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff,
Noora, Hussein Fahmi,
Mahmoud Abdul Aziz

Al Firdous
Tarana (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar,
Madhubala

Fahaseel Open-Air
Khooni Mahal (Hindi)

Al Fahaseel
Naag Purnima (Bengali)

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Salem Pharmacy
Nr. Sheraton, Fahad Al
Salem St.
Al Talal Pharmacy
Opp. Education Ministry,
Hilali SL

Hawalli and Nugra
Al Zena Pharmacy
Bin Khaldoon St., Nugra

Salmiya and Rumaihiya
Al Quds Pharmacy
Abdul Karim Khalifa
Mazal Bldg., Amman St.

Fahaseel and Ahmad
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Muhammad St. Fbel

Jeeb Al Shiyok
Al Wahran Pharmacy
Souk St.

Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market

WHAT'S ON**ARTS**

Bahrain Modern Art Show
Over 70 modern art paintings by Bahraini artists are on show at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. Open daily from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm. Open until Dec 28.

FILMS**Indian Film Festival**

The festival continues next week with Ramesh Sharma's New Delhi Times (Saturday); Basu Chatterjee's Sar Akash (Sunday); Shekhar Kapur's Masoom (Monday); Guru Dutt's Kangan Ke Phool (Tuesday) and Adamite Varyellu (Adam's Rib), a Malayalam movie, on Wednesday. All films will be shown at 7.30 pm in the auditorium of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Children are not admitted. For further details contact the Cine Club, near Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

SOCIAL**ASK Alumni Dinner**

Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner on Jan 3. Arabic buffet starts at 8 pm. For details phone - 5314568.

Malayalee Drama

Vishwabharati Theatre, Abbasia, will present a Malayalee drama and a cultural show on Friday at 6 pm in the Indian Embassy auditorium.

ACT-Auditions

Auditions for ACT's next production "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Monday (Dec 28) on Wednesday (Dec 30) from 7 to 9 pm. For further details and location call: 5620332; 5725071.

SPORTS**Kuwait Nomads**

Rugby Club
Thursday: Youths XV vs Veterans XV at Fintas; kick-off at 3.30 pm. All players must report by 3.15 pm.

Jeeway Pakistan

JEEWAY Pakistan, a two-hour video cassette of Pakistani national songs is being released today on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Prepared and produced by Shamim Zaidi, the cassette contains a number of popular patriotic songs filmed in Pakistan. A chorus by a group of Pakistani children in Kuwait is the highlight of the programme.

The cassette will be released by Najib Video.

KTV 1**9.00 Holy Quran****9.15 Cartoons****10.00 The World of Disney:**

film for children

11.00 Open University

11.30 Al Islam Wal Insaan "Islam and Man," new religious programme, hosted by Dr Abdul Suboor Al Shahin.

12.00 Ali Al Zaneeq:

featuring Faroog Al Fishawi,

Huda Sultan, Abu Bakr Ezzat and Laila Fawzi.

1.00 News Summary**1.20 World News via Satellite****2.00 Liqa Al Khanjari:**

round-up of local events

4.00 Hakim Al Aqaz:

cartoons

4.30 News Summary**4.40 The Persuaders:**

featuring Roger Moore, Tony Curtis

5.30 Songs and Music**6.00 Alwan:**

presented by Rasha Magdi

7.00 News Summary**7.05 Show Jumping****7.30 Rahlat Fi Al Majnoon:**

Arabic serial

Starring: Issaad Yunus, Ala Ramy, Hassan Mustafa, Hussein Sharbini

8.30 With Islam:

hosted by Dr. Khalid Al Madhkur

9.00 News in Arabic**10.00 From People's Art****10.05 Al Awham:**

Arabic feature film starring Sbewkar,

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES**Mustafa Fahami-Ilham**

Shabih, Hatem Zulfiqar, Mohsin Sarhan. Directed by Ahmad Al Nahas.

12.00 Late Night Variety Show:

hosted by Aminah Al Sharrah.

1.30 News Summary**1.35 World News via Satellite****2.15 Holy Quran/Closedown****FRIDAY****9.00 Holy Quran****9.30 Cartoons****10.00 The World of Disney:**

film for children

11.00 Open University**11.30 Al Islam Wal Insaan**

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11.15 Friday Prayer**12.15 Min Wahi Al Ayat Al Bayanai:**

religious serial

1.00 News Summary**1.20 World News via Satellite****2.15 INTERVAL****3.15 Preview of next week's programme on KTV****4.00 Hindi Film: Naifaraf,**

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7.00 News Summary**7.45 A Seminar on Kuwait:**

Part One. Prepared by Education Ministry.

9.00 News in Arabic**10.00 Wrestling****10.45 Liqa'a:**

Arabic play featuring Sbewkar,

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1.00 News Summary

LETTERS & EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

It is when the holiday is over that we begin to enjoy it—
A. G. Gardiner, English journalist (1865-1946).

Israel caught off guard by uprising

By Nicolas B Tatro

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP) The intensity and scope of recent Arab uprising caught Israel's government and Army off guard and challenged some widely held Israeli beliefs about Arabs.

Israelis appeared most shaken by the fact the violence spread from the territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war to the Tel Aviv suburb of Jaffo, whose cafe-lined streets had become a symbol of Arab-Jewish coexistence.

"This is the first time the Israeli public has actually seen that there is some kind of mutuality between events in the (occupied) territories and what takes place among Israeli Arabs," military commentator Zeev Schiff wrote in the Haaretz newspaper.

The point was hammered home by Rifaat "Jimmy" Turk, an Israeli Arab soccer star who endorsed Monday's Arab general strike in support of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Listen, I have family in Gaza and the West Bank and I can't detach myself from them," Turk said in a television interview. "I am not going wild or doing illegal things. But I belong to this nation, I can't cut myself off from it and don't want to either."

Support

His support shocked many Israelis who had come to see the 750,000 Israeli Arabs, who speak Hebrew and vote in Israeli elections, as a contented minority separate from the 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Amnon Cohen, a professor of Middle East history at Hebrew University and a former adviser to the military government in the occupied territories, said a variety of contacts between Palestinians and Israeli Arabs, including intermarriage, had brought the two communities together.

In 1967 there was a total divide between them, physical, economical, even emotional. But that has dissipated gradually," he said.

Israeli Jews tend to live and socialise separately from Israeli Arabs, even though they may work together. Many Jews apparently failed to see the

Even judges are on strike in Brazil

By Stephen Powell

SAO PAULO, (Reuter): Even Brazil's judges have gone on strike as the country's annual rate of inflation approaches 350 per cent under embattled President Jose Sarney and economists warn the worst may yet come.

Most analysts say Brazil's tangled political crises lies at the root of its deepening economic woes.

The 559-member constituent assembly, now in its 11th month, is still a long way from drawing up a new constitution, originally due to be ready before the end of the year, and it is now expected about April.

In the meantime, uncertainty shrouds everything from the system of government which Brazil will adopt to how it will view foreign investors.

This month has seen a resumption of labour unrest after a period of relative calm. On Friday and Saturday a national strike of 50,000 airline staff grounded most domestic flights in a country which relies heavily on air links.

There have also been strikes this month in the steel industry, government-run universities, telecommunications and the postal services.

Claim

And on Friday, the 60 judges in the important southern state of Rio Grande do Sul began a strike to back a 10 per cent pay claim. Because of the strike, officials said, legal rights such as habeas corpus had been effectively suspended.

As a stand-in president thrust into office in 1985 by the death of the popular Tancredo Neves, Sarney's positions has always been difficult. These days the criticism is relentless.

Sarney, who is widely seen as indecisive and incompetent, said in his weekly radio broadcast last Friday that the economy had spun out of control in 1987.

Biased decision

SIR: I fully support the views of Angelo V. Fernandes expressed in his letter "Unsporting KIFF" (AT Dec 17-18).

One fails to recollect any incident which could lead to such severe action as taken against D'Assissi Boys team, so as to deny them of a win in a game.

I believe the Kuwait India Football Association (KIFF) gave vent to their anger on D'Assissi Boys in order to console the losing Incredibile XI team. This is very unprofessional and unsporting.

It's high time all the teams express "no-confidence" on the association and remove cause of favouritism and appoint a new committee of matured and well-informed Indian sportsmen.

"Israel will have to take into consideration today that Israeli Arabs will fight to obtain more power to rectify what seems to them an inequity in comparison with Israeli Jews in development, education, universities, etc."

Segev said.

Some right-wing politicians, fearing further outbreaks of unrest, called for the reimposition of military rule over Arabs in northern Israel. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir dismissed the idea.

The Army also was caught by surprise. It has maintained a small force of a few hundred soldiers in the territories; most had neither the training nor means to deal with rioters.

"Most of the soldiers are very young, their experience in such activity is very limited," said Brig. Gen. Ephraim Lapid, the Army spokesman.

Army officials said the military is reconsidering its opposition to forming a riot force and is giving serious thought to equipping units with water cannons and other non-lethal items such as rubber bullets and tear gas.

Fallen

The riots bit while both Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were out of the country.

Segev said their absence was one reason the government, deeply divided over Middle East peacemaking strategy, failed to come to grips with the situation.

"If the government had taken a strong hand immediately, fewer people would have been killed overall and it would have not lasted this long," Segev said.

"The cumulative effect on world opinion would have been lessened."

Uzi Baran, secretary general of the Centrist Labour Party,

said Shamir's opposition to a proposed international peace conference was to blame for the recent violence.

"The policy that offers no hope, the policy of not encouraging peace is favourable ground for instigators to get what they want," he told Israel Army Radio.

Egypt fights 5,000 years old bureaucracy

By Dalia Balligh

CAIRO, (AP): Egypt is attacking a bureaucracy nourished over 5,000 years with a five-year plan costing \$45 million and featuring a book of rules three inches (7.6 cm) thick.

The task is formidable: to mobilise an estimated 3.5 million government employees, who control almost every facet of Egyptian's red-tape-laden lives, to deal with the public on efficiency and courtesy.

Aside from making life easier for the citizenry, the effort also is designed to streamline procedures that have become major impediments to Egypt's attack on critical financial problems.

Exporters complain that government pledges to relax regulations on exports have come to nothing. Even more serious is a jumble of red tape that can scare away potential investors.

The result is a complicated system of red tape administered by people eager to justify jobs.

It's compounded by lazy, underpaid employees who throw "come back tomorrow" at a applicant or turn a deaf ear to pleas for action until "bakshesh" — a tip — is slipped into the official's drawer.

Often, the key to expediting service is knowing someone in authority.

In most ministries, offices are grossly overstuffed, mainly because tradition obliges the government to hire every college graduate who can't find a job in private business. Egyptian universities graduate about 50,000 students annually.

Kazem said that under his plan, government employees will be given training courses, offices will be refurbished and regulations and directives will be hung on office walls. Time limits will also be set for services.

Bureaucracy began in Egypt 5,000 years ago, with one of history's earliest civilisations.

A statue in the Louvre in Paris of an Egyptian scribe, sitting cross-legged and writing on a papyrus between his knees, is among the most famous Pharaonic relics.

unprofessional refereeing ruin the spirit of the game. We sincerely hope that KIFF will reconsider this issue and award the match to D'Assissi Boys.

Romeo D'Mello.
Safat.

Let Appukuttan continue

SIR: We like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities about the termination of our highly qualified and experienced mathematics teacher, P. Appukuttan.

We fail to understand why only he was singled out and his services terminated when it was a joint representation of eight teachers. They demanded a raise in salary at par with another senior teacher.

This is justified as they are the seniormost teachers and have served the institution for a long time. They have also carried out other administrative and cultural activities to the best of their ability. We, the students feel that the Indian School, Salimiyah, will not be able to boast of such good results in the public examinations without their services.

Students of Class XII,
Indian School, Salimiyah

Much to everyone's astonishment, inexperienced teachers have been recruited to replace senior teachers. These new recruits have yet to win the confidence of the students. The school management should understand that due to such decisions taken by them, it is the students who suffer most.

We request the school management to let Appukuttan continue teaching us till the end of this academic year.

for Ronald Reagan — a piece of Gorbachev's brain;

for Charles and Diana — marriage counselling;

for George Schulz — a tattoo for the other cheek;

And closer to home:

for Selma Abbasi — a new blonde wig;

for Sulaiman Kalander — elocution lessons — and for Keith Wells — sour grapes (with the compliments of KTV).

Paul Wilson,
Salimiyah.

People**ill-treated**

SIR: The behaviour of the so-called "airport security guards" is atrocious, to say the least.

The other day, I was at Terminal 1 to see off a family,

for an early morning flight.

Passengers as well as others

were freely let into the lounge.

In fact, apart from the one who

manned the console of the "scanner" at the entrance, there was not a single

policeman to be seen anywhere around.

After about an hour, while passengers were still checking

in, suddenly eight or 10 security men (most of them in their early twenties) burst into the lounge, screaming in Arabic. One caught hold of a man who had come to see off his wife and children and hit him on the neck with his open palm right in front of his family. Another one grabbed hold of a middle-aged man by his coat collar and gave him such a shove that he lost his footing and almost fell, all this, while rebuking him. Seeing this the people dashed towards the exit.

One who witnessed,
Name and address supplied.

Air fare

SIR: Recently the government announced one fare for all airlines. As a result, air fares have increased between KD 21 and KD 65. This is a great burden on the low paid workers who cannot afford such increases.

Instead of stopping discounting, KAC should give a reasonable discount — about 40 per cent — to all public servants. In that case, all government employees will travel on



KAC. All KAC flights will be full, boosting their business.

At present, airlines and travel agents give substantial discount fares to all their employees. If KAC gave discounts to public employees, they would ensure a steady passenger load on all their flights.

M. Ameen Zubairi,
Mohammad Saleh Al
Jabbar,
Satat.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Uncertain prospects for the new year**Hostages face bleak Christmas in Lebanon**

By Hala Jaber

BEIRUT, (Reuter): The foreign hostages of Lebanon face the Christian season of peace and goodwill with heart-rending memories of Christmas past and uncertain prospects for the new year.

American pastor Reverend Benjamin Weir, freed in West Beirut 15 months ago, recalled in his book "Hostage Bound Hostage Free," the pain of Christmas in captivity far from family and friends.

"I greeted the morning of Christmas with my own quiet carolling, thinking of the only way I had to celebrate.

"I recalled past Christmases with my family and longed to be with them on this day of all days. The pain is worse thinking of how loved relatives must feel," he wrote.

At least 24 foreigners remain missing, believed kidnapped, in Lebanon. They include nine Americans, five French nationals, three Britons, three Iranians and one hostage each from West Germany, Ireland, Italy and India.

For 10 of the Westerners, Dec 25 will mark their third Christmas in captivity. The Iranians have been missing since 1982.

Held

Weir, like six hostages still missing, was held by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group.

He writes in his book of how his kidnappers relented on Christmas day 1985 and allowed him and his fellow American captives to admire a yule log cake before giving them a piece, a plate of fruit and a bottle of cologne.

Weir spent much of his 16 months in captivity bound and blindfolded before his release on Sept 16, 1986.

The IJLP also holds Americans Jessie Turner, 39, Alain Steen, 48, and Indian Mitbileshwar Singh, 60. Gunmen disguised as police seized them from Beirut University on Jan 24.

Photographs of Polhill and Turner accompanied a statement warning that all four hostages would be hurt unless Israeli troops stopped a crackdown in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made her stand on the issue clear last month when she told parliament: "Dealing with terrorists only leads to more kidnappings and more violence."

announced before the Central Committee meeting ends, which could give a better indication of power balances in Prague.

But in Prague, who is 65 and nine years younger than Husak, the leadership appeared to have found someone who stood between Prague's liberal and conservative camps, they said.

Hesitant

After a hesitant start, Prague has pushed forward with planning its reform programme since the spring. But few changes have yet been implemented and diplomats say the slow pace reflects deep mistrust among some politburo members.

Prague to maintain cautious reform

By David Stamp

VIENNA, (Reuter): Czechoslovakia seems to maintain its cautious reform-path under new Communist Party chief Milos Jakes, nudged along by exhortations for change from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, diplomats say.

President Gustav Husak announced at a Central Committee meeting in Prague on Thursday that he was stepping down as party general secretary.

During his 18 years in the post he reimposed strict communist orthodoxy following the 1986 Soviet-led invasion, which crushed the "Prague Spring" reform movement, and restored friendly ties with Moscow.

"Jakes is great reforming zealot," one Prague-based Western diplomat told Reuters. "But the economy is crying out for reform so I think the changes will keep going at the same, cautious pace as before."

Shortly after the leadership change was announced, Gorbachev called on Prague to push ahead with economic restructuring and introduce democratic reforms in public and political life.

But while Gorbachev had recruited many new men to implement his reconstruction of Soviet life and the economy, Czechoslovakia's leadership remained little changed from when it was installed in the late 1960s, the diplomats said.

Changing

"We're not talking about a new generation (in Prague). It's more a changing of the guard by the same faces who have been around since the invasion," one

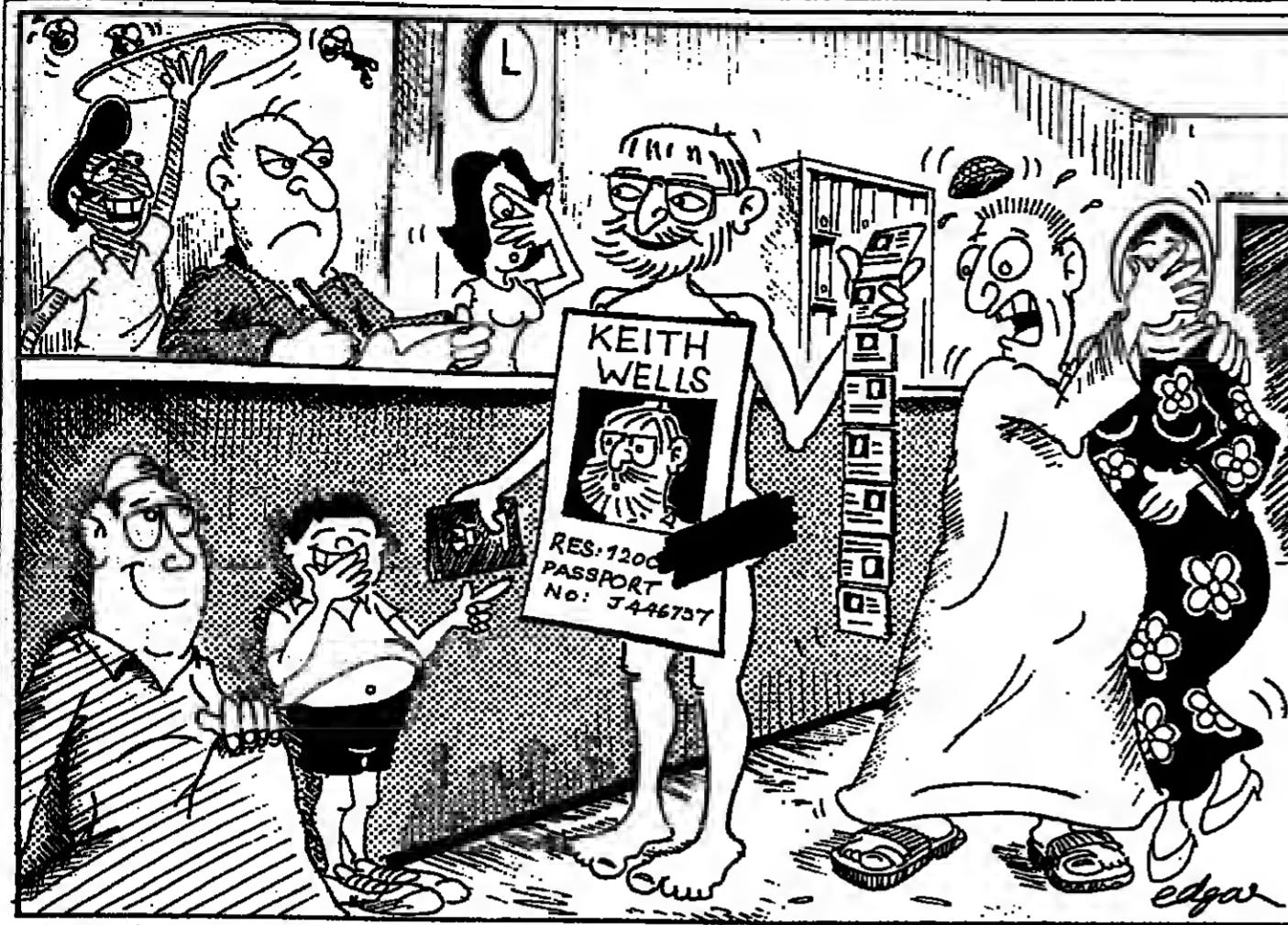
TODAY IN HISTORY

1524 — Vasco da Gama, Portuguese navigator who discovered sea route to India, dies.

1612 — Poland signs two-year truce with Sweden and 14-year truce with Turkey.

1650 — Edinburgh castle in Scotland surrenders to forces of Oliver Cromwell.

HUMOUR



By Keith Wells

ONCE upon a time, everybody knew who they were, but nowadays you need a card. To drive a car, you need a card, to get a flat, electricity or a job, you need a card. You can't even get sick without a health card. The hassle you have to go through to get a death certificate these days means that thousands of people are living beyond their time simply because they can't face the paperwork... I swear there's a guy in Hawaii who's 137 and still can't bring himself to get the photographs and sign everything in triplicate. Besides he's lost his birth certificate, so he's never get away with dying anyway.

These new civil identity cards are supposed to be the card to end all cards, but when I tried to buy a new car last week, they still wanted my electricity bill. I told them I was going to ruin the damn thing on petrol, not volts, but they wouldn't listen.

No-one seems to consider that cards can be faked, forged, or lost... I suppose sooner or later they'll start tattooing your identity on our foreheads, that way they'll know for sure who we are. We won't, of course, since it's pretty well impossible to torch something on your forehead even if you look in the mirror it'll all be backwards so I will start thinking my name is Mieck Slew, which doesn't sound too good. Still, I suppose

Who are you?

It's better than Laihkim Vehabrog the Russian leader, and Mrs Thatcher's first name will

sound curiously apt.

The problem with cards is the photograph, I always look like someone who eats babies for breakfast, an axe murderer after a rough night. The other problem with the photos is that you need so many of them... I estimate that in the past ten years I must have used up about three hundred postage stamp-sized photos of me looking like a malevolent loony.

Question

At one time the quest for human identity provided the greatest of all intellectual challenges. Philosophers faced with enormity of the universe, the mystery of life, and the enigma of death would ponder for decades over the profound question, 'Who am I?' Fact is, none of them guessed the answer was going to turn out to be a small square of clear plastic with a bar code, photograph and a visa number. It just goes to show that philosophers invariably lose touch with ordinary life.

Then there is the question of who exactly has the right to demand to see your identity cards? Is it purely a matter for consenting adults, or do we have to produce them for any bossy bus conductor who asks?

permitted preservatives and expiry dates. Having had the flu for the last ten days, I suspect my own expiry date might be nigh and the wife will have to hurry if she hopes to sell me before I go off.

I wonder why they (whoever they may be) want to know who we are anyway. Maybe they collect identities like some people collect stamps, and somewhere there is a megalomaniac sticking tiny photos of me and you into a gigantic album, carefully inscribing our names, dates of birth and marital statuses underneath.

Speaking of which, what is your marital status? I mean it's very hard to say, isn't it? Mine fluctuates from day to day. On Friday it could be happy, by Saturday dodgy, and Sunday decidedly dangerous. The last time I had to fill in a form that asked my marital status I'd just forgotten my wife's birthday so I simply wrote 'Untouchable' and left it at that.

Of course, all this nonsense is a product of the wonderful modern world. Can you imagine a Russian bureaucrat saying, 'I am very sorry Mr Bonaparte, Sir, but I cannot let you enter the country without a proper visa.' Or better still, some fussy little man with a residence stamp accosting Genghis Khan and the Golden Horde at the border and blustering, 'Please, Mr Khan, make your team line up properly so we can take their fingerprints. I think he'd end up as a blood sample.'

The Art Buchwald Column

Down with the Gipper

One, if it makes his day to sign a nuclear peace treaty with the Russians I don't see any reason for the neo-conservatives to get all excited about it."

"There is more to this than a lousy arms deal," Sovereign said. "What if I told you the Soviets turned the President around and he now works for them?"

"How could they have done it?" I asked. "He goes to bed so early."

"They put something in Reagan's Ovaltine."

"You ultra-conservatives are really loony. Who would do that?"

"Gorbachev. Since the days of the Czar it has always been the dream of the Russians to have an American President in their pocket. Suppose after putting something in the Ovaltine he persuaded

Reagan to sign the paper?"

"Reagan would never sign anything he doesn't believe. He has said many

times that the treaty is good for both sides. By reducing nuclear weapons, and stressing verification, the world will be a safer place to live in."

"It sounds like something the Soviets would instruct Reagan to say. You have to be blind not to see the President gets his orders from the Kremlin."

"Shame on you. Is red-hating the only thing the right-wing fringe knows how to do? Just because you're mad is no reason to question the loyalty of those who support arms reduction. It may interest you to hear that there are quite a few patriotic Republicans who have urged Reagan to put his signature on the treaty. For heaven's sakes, Archie, you people aren't losing a missile system — you're gaining the Star Wars Initiative."

"Where in the treaty



does it say that the Soviets will cry uncle?"

"If we start down that road the cold war will begin anew and we'll all be in the freezer."

"It's better than Gorbachev walking off with everything in the Oval Office. You know, from the beginning we fringe people never did trust Ronald Reagan. He talked tough, but he had disarmament written all over his face."

"OK, so you don't agree that he should sit down with Gorbachev. What are you going to do about it?"

"We're going to start impeachment proceedings."

"You can't impeach Reagan."

"Maybe not, but it's a great way to raise new money for old right-wing causes."

1987, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

IT'S enough to make a securer humanist cry. The right wing in the United States has turned on the Gipper, the man who led them out of the Carter political desert into the land of deficits and Star Wars.

The wrath of the conservatives was caused by Reagan saying they do not understand the arms pact and have accepted the idea that war is inevitable.

Archie Sovereign, a right-winger of impeccable credentials, was frothing at the mouth, "He has joined the evil empire."

I said, "Not necessarily, but there is some truth to the idea that your people believe war between the US and the USSR has to be."

"Maybe we do and maybe we don't."

Sovereign said, "Peace hasn't worked that well anyway. But that's not the point. How would the hating liberals like it if Reagan stabbed them in the back?"

"They wouldn't like it, but it's hard to imagine any occasion when he would stab us. Ronald Reagan started his political life as a liberal and it's obvious he wants to end his career as

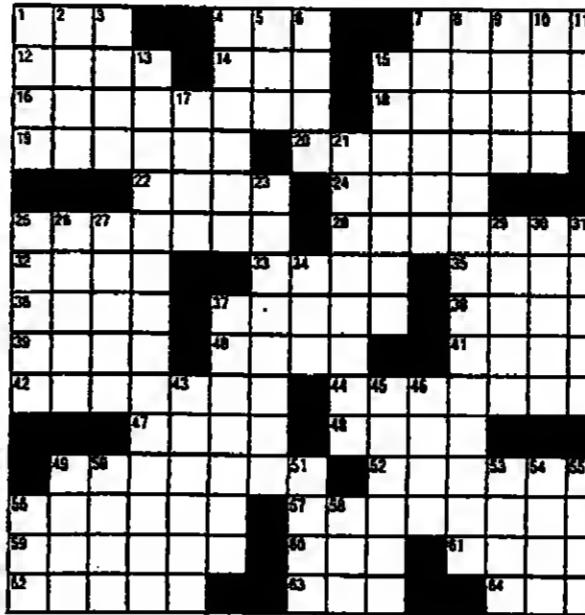
By Smith

ANDY CAPP



By Smith

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1, 52, to Cato
- 4 Strong — horse
- 7 TV series about attorneys
- 12 Amphora
- 14 Buddy
- 15 Orikoco feeder
- 16 Custom
- 18 Certain ivories are these
- 19 Sawlike parts
- 20 Aqueduct
- 22 Grampus
- 24 Brnt carbine
- 25 Blew one's own horn
- 28 Shaped like a heart
- 32 Full-length vestments
- 33 Gloom
- 35 Gov. agents
- 36 Shipshape
- 37 Banquets
- 38 Kind of sight?
- 39 Rinehart heroine
- 40 Paul of song
- 41 Existence
- 42 Unusual, with "of"
- 44 Barmy
- 47 Nut husk, in Arles
- 48 Ludwig or Jannings
- 49 Fiscal conditions
- 52 Stewed or pickled
- 56 Difficult exertion
- 57 Put an end
- to a rumor
- 59 Cubic meters
- 60 Road curve
- 61 Thousand:
- 62 Plants
- 63 Headland
- 64 Saul's grandfather
- 65 Leaves high and dry
- 66 Palmer et al.
- 67 Adorn
- 68 Tournament of yore
- 69 Kitchen ender
- 70 Hudson Bay Indian
- 71 North Sea feeder
- 72 Hammett's "The — Man"
- 73 containing fluid
- 74 Guinness
- 75 High or low follower
- 76 All day and all night
- 77 Vlad's pseudonym
- 78 Dill of the Bible
- 79 Neighbor of Ill.
- 80 Racetrack
- 81 wagering
- 82 Singers of liturgical music
- 83 Pastry tray item
- 84 Supplement to a book
- 85 Group of African languages
- 86 Liquid portion of fat
- 87 Disconcert
- 88 Mennonite sect
- 89 Past, present or future
- 90 Finalized
- 91 Hardy tree
- 92 Leaves high and dry
- 93 Palmer et al.
- 94 Adorn
- 95 Tournament
- 96 Kitchen ender
- 97 Hudson Bay Indian
- 98 North Sea feeder
- 99 Hammett's "The — Man"
- 100 Part of TV
- 101 Bouquet
- 102 Draft org.
- 103 Secessionist gp.

DOWN

- 1 Oval distances
- 2 Concerning
- 3 Danube feeder
- 4 "Whal — of work is a man!"
- 5 Shak.
- 6 Pouch
- 7 Guiness
- 8 High or low follower
- 9 All day and all night
- 10 Vlad's pseudonym
- 11 Neighbor of Ill.
- 12 Racetrack
- 13 Wagering
- 14 Singers of liturgical music
- 15 Pastry tray item
- 16 Supplement to a book
- 17 Group of African languages
- 18 Liquid portion of fat
- 19 Dill of the Bible
- 20 Neighbor of Ill.
- 21 Kiss
- 22 Racetrack
- 23 Wagering
- 24 Singers of liturgical music
- 25 Pastry tray item
- 26 Supplement to a book
- 27 Disconcert
- 28 Mennonite sect
- 29 Past, present or future
- 30 Finalized
- 31 Hardy tree
- 32 Leaves high and dry
- 33 Palmer et al.
- 34 Adorn
- 35 Tournament
- 36 Kitchen ender
- 37 Hudson Bay Indian
- 38 North Sea feeder
- 39 Hammett's "The — Man"
- 40 Part of TV
- 41 Bouquet
- 42 Draft org.
- 43 Secessionist gp.

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

- ♦ A 5
- ♦ Void
- ♦ A K Q J 9 7
- ♦ K Q J 10 9
- ♦ 10 4 3
- ♦ K Q J 10 9 7 6
- ♦ 10 8 3
- ♦ Void

EAST

- ♦ J 9 7
- ♦ 4 2
- ♦ 7 6 5 4 3

SOUTH

- ♦ K Q 8 6 2
- ♦ 5 4 2
- ♦ 6 5
- ♦ A 8 2

The bidding:
West North East South
3 ♠ 4 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 NT
Pass 6 NT Pass 7 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

We know of many players who would collapse when they found out about the had trump break on today's hand. A far more intelligent approach is that adopted by declarer—look for a way to make the contract regardless.

North-South coped with West's disruptive preempt in fine style. North started with a cue-bid and South showed his desire for slam by bidding five no trump, asking partner to choose the suit—the cue-bid promised only a two-suited hand not a three-suited. North felt sure his partner had the ace of clubs for his move to slam, so he announced

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BASS	ABLE	SHE'S
ABET	AGAIN	TASS
REAR	BASRA	ERSE
BESIDE	DETHEMARK	DELE OWN
DELE	ERSED	IRAD
SERENE	SCREAMED	CDPT
ALENE	AIILED	PLAYTHEMARKET
FAST	STRAD	GLADE
ATT	PASSE	ERODE
RESTORED	HUSHES	ANND
LAUGH	PRAM	EIRE
DO YOU	SPADE	RAKER
GET YOUR	SPAD	MATE
HIGHCUTS?	IRE	TERN
DID YOU	SPAD	IRE



By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

THE WIZARD OF ID



B.C.



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should spare more than a thought for those less fortunate than you. The best thing to do if you are wrong is to admit it. This is not time to be too abstemious, but do not exceed reasonable limits. Be alert.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

Do your best to see only the best in others just now. You should use all the goodwill you can summon up. And do give others the benefit of any doubt whatsoever. Be alert.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

Do make sure that your preconceptions do not prevent you from seeing things as they actually are. Do not suppress your emotions but do not let them hold sway either. Avoid getting into any kind of argument. Be benevolent.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Remember, giving is still more blessed than receiving. You should not do anything you feel or even know is wrong. Avoid giving too much emphasis to your intuitions. Be hopeful.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should make an effort to forgive others their trespasses. And do use your own strengths to help others weaker than you right now. Beware of eating or drinking more than you know you should however delectable. Be resilient.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

It would be to

CINE ROUND-UP FROM BOMBAY

by Firoze Rangoonwalla

More publicity, less quality, more tall tales, less hardwork

1987: a year of cinematic mediocrity

NOW that the year 1987 is coming to a close, we recall some of the important films, events and personalities that went to make it a crowded though unrewarding year.

The twelve months were flooded with films, both in the shooting and release stages. But there was no single film that could stand the test of time, or be called a great achievement of Indian Cinema. In fact, there was more publicity than quality, more tall talk than solid work.

Nearly 145 Hindi films have been released till December and the total produced in all languages is over 800. But of the actual releases, many were films dubbed in Hindi from regional originals, and many were products of earlier years completed now. Moreover, nearly a hundred films were just of the B and C grade types.

At the box-office, too, there were hardly more than 25 fresh films which really made some impact. The competition from video-TV and audience apathy made these films run on for five to six weeks with crowded houses. After that, they were dragged towards a jhulee. The other films had to be content with a combined run (at many theatres) of two to three weeks. The only genuine hit among the lot was *Pratighaat* followed by *Mr India* and *Khudgarz*.

Modest

"*Pratighaat*" made at an amazingly low cost with totally new artists, minted ten times the money both for the producers and the distributors. Its success was an indication of the bottled up anger of the audience against the evils in society, politics and the law-and-order machinery. It was an angry young woman's fight against the bad elements and therefore it set a new trend



A star cast and a melodramatic plot helped 'Insaniyat Ke Dushman' at the box office. Above scene has (L to R) Aruna, Amjad, Dimple and Shakti.

amidst hero-oriented films.

Mr India gave another kind of relief by escaping into a fantasy world, where an invisible man and his mischievous beloved fight the evils, and save humanity. *Khudgarz* reminded people of the values of friendship, simplicity and gratitude in a fast-changing world. But the success of these two films came nowhere near *Pratighaat*. The family drama *Sindoor* succeeded on the strength of a suffering woman's sentiment. *Insaniyat Ke Dushman* had a number of stars and a hulky melodrama.

Other films earning modest returns were *Parvaar*, *Sansar*, *Maa Beti*, *Aniad*, *Jaiwa* and *Dance Dance*. The films filled with action, revenge and violence mostly kept the box-office safe, like *Loha*, *Hukumat*, *Aag Hi Aag*, *Insaaf*, *Marte Dam Tak*, and *Kudrat* and *Ka Kanon* (which tried to copy *Pratighaat*).

The third type of films to succeed were the sex-oriented ones with soft-porn scenes like *Kachchi Kali*, *Main Aur Tum*, *Kachchi Jawani*, *Wahem Nasheeli Jawani* and to some extent the jungle films like *Sheela*. Some horror films like *Dal Bangla* and *Khooni Mahal* also scored. Those holding promise at the end of the year were *Pushpak*, the unusual film without dialogue or songs and *Smita Patil's* last important film *Waris*.

Star-wise "there" was a steep fall. From the art films aided by *N.F.D.C.*, *Mirch Masala* had some hidden commercial elements, so it had a reasonable run. *Debsishu* was pushed out within a week. The other art films had no buyers and were given over to TV. *Maheesh Bhatt's* *Kaash* pretended to be off-beat but ended up as a weepy melodrama. His *Thikana* was a total wash-out. People also felt let down by *Awaam*, *Kalyug*, *Aur Ramayan*, *Dacait*, *Raahne*, *Yaatna* and *Jhanjar*.

The year saw the rise and fall

Impression

Star ratings kept changing like the stock market. *Amritabhi's* misfortunes were more political than cinematic. He had to resign from the Parliament in July, after which his film reputation was jeopardised and for the first time his face was blackened on film posters. *Rajesh Khanna* has almost come to the end of his career. *Jackie Shroff* kept going downhill with flop after flop. *Sunny Deol* suffered from big defeats and is trying for a fresh start all over again. *Dev's* son *Suneil Anand's* future will be decided by the tail-end release

of *Main Tere Liye*.

Vinod Khanna indeed rose from the ashes and made an impressive commercial comeback with *Insaaf* and *Satyamev Jayate*. Though both were poor films, *Vinod* was flooded with offers. *Sri Devi* reached the top with two or three big hits. But her position is not a steady one, for *Himmat Aur Mehnat* has already shown signs of being a flop and has exposed her as a routine performer. *Dimple's* stars are positively on the rise and she was the most sought after heroine during the year. Ironically, after a mega hit like *Pratighaat*, *Sujata Mehta* has not been signed for a single film as a heroine. *Rekha* also started palioig to the background, while *Jaya Prada* kept her place. *Madhuri Dixit* made a proper entry, as *legoone*.

The younger stars are having a good score, as the films don't totally depend on them. *Mithun*, *Anil Kapoor*, *Raj Babbar*, *Govinda*, *Chunky Sunjay Dutt*, *Naseeruddin*



Amitabh Bachchan: his misfortunes were off the screen but there's a big question mark on his superstar status

Shah etc had a good year and the veterans *Dharmendra*, *Jeetendra* and *Shatrughan Sinha* rode high. Among the girls, *Neelam*, *Mandakini*, *Meenakshi*, *Amrita*, *Farha* kept on getting films, even without a noteworthy hit. Among the character artistes, *Amrish Puri* was the most in demand followed by *Pran*, *Raojeet*, *Dadooy*, *Gulshao Grover*.

On the whole, it was a bad depressing year. The long cinema strike in North India in the last three months upset most of the film activity. There was turmoil in the Film Institute. The Bombay and Madras industries also had labour trouble. And there were many sad deaths, like those of *Kishore Kumar*, *Surendra*, *Jeevan*, *Meena Shorey* and writer-director *Khwaja Ahmed Abbas*.



Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha and Amrita in 'Khudgarz'. The film stressed the values of friendship and enjoyed considerable success.



The only genuine hit of the year was 'Pratighaat.' Charan Raj (right) who played the villain receives the silver jubilee trophy.



Films filled with action, revenge and violence were safe at the box-office. One of the big successes of the year was Dharmendra's *Hukumat*.

The video parlours have made a new code word *Sagar Parbat* for "soft-porn" or blue films. They are given only to selected clients. This follows the fiasco of the old code *Bhakta Prahlad*, when a cassette of blue movies was sent to an assembly of religious ladies, by mistake.

A new starlet has installed a strange door-bell at her suburban house. When you press it, a tape starts playing lines of film songs like *Aap aaye bahar aaye*, *Baharo phool barsao*, *Adiye meherban* etc. The starlet's manager sees through the peep-hole and if you are an unwanted guest, the bell switches over to *Mere angane mein tumhara kya kaam hai*.

Raj Kapoor has decided to give up *Henna* for a time and start some other small film. Some artistic excuses are being given for shelving it, though some songs have already been recorded. The real reason lies

Behind the Screen

perhaps in R.K.'s income-tax arrears which are being recovered by the I.T. department from the profits of *Ram Teri Ganga Maiya*. So the shrivelled Raj finds himself short of finance for a big film. And he will not invest his own savings so easily.

Lata Mangeshkar helps many charity causes by doing free stage shows. But she never donates from her own pocket. And she neglects the Jayprakash Studio owned by her in Kolhapur, which is meant for Marathi films. The reason is that the studio is not a paying business. But can she not encourage the Marathi film industry, the language to which she belongs? After all, she started her life with Marathi films, singing and acting in them.

Raj Kumar's real surname is



Raj Kumar: egocentric

Pandit. His elder sister writes dialogues under that name. Still, when the egocentric actor was called by that name, by *Prakash Mehra* at a party, he flared up and said: "How can a cheap director like you call me by that name?" P.M. too lost his temper and caught R. Kumar by the neck. The actor was scared that the angry hand may next go to pull off his wig. So made a quick exit from the scene.

Shekhar Kapoor's assistant Salish Kaushik who played the comic *Calendar* in *"Mr India"* has been signed to direct *Boney Kapoor's* next film. Obviously, the producers have greater faith in the hard work and economy which the assistant showed in *"Mr India"*, as compared to the director who went on leisurely spending his time and the money of the producer.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Dutch propose law to ban new investment in S. Africa

THE HAGUE, Dec. 23: (AP) — The Dutch government has proposed legislation to ban new Dutch investments in South Africa and make Dutch companies report on their personnel policies in that nation, the foreign ministry said today.

The proposed law was submitted to parliament yesterday and stems from last year's decision by the 12 nations of the European Economic Community (EEC) to ban new investments in the South African economy, according to a ministry spokeswoman.

Under the proposal, those Dutch companies that still have South African operations would be required to report to the government on their observance of EEC guidelines aimed against apartheid on the shop floor, the spokeswoman said.

Policy. She asked not to be identified, in line with ministry policy.

The EEC guidelines call on European companies to recognise South Africa's black trade unions and avoid racial discrimination in pay and working conditions.

All Dutch companies working in South Africa have already been reporting on their observance of the EEC guidelines on voluntary basis since last year, the ministry spokeswoman said.

The Philips Electronics multinational and the oil giant Shell are among the Dutch-owned companies that have plants in South Africa.

Merger prompts factory closures

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 22, (AP) — At least 100 factories will be closed in connection with the merger of Swedish Asea AB and Swiss BBC-Brown Boveri and Co., the designated head of the giant electrical engineering company said in an interview yesterday.

Percy Barnevick, Asea's president, said the merger will be completed by Jan. 1 as planned and strengthen Asea and Brown Boveri, Sweden's national news agency TT reported.

Distribution. "It will lower our costs, enable us to invest more in research and improve our distribution ... but I do not want to pretend that the merger will be completed without pains," TT quoted Barnevick as saying.

"We have 700 companies and 2,500 factories. It is clear that out of these, (factories) maybe 100 will be closed down. One hundred plus one hundred will be merged. There will be changes in the work situation for employees all over the world," Barnevick said.

The interview did not elaborate on which factories would be shut down or how the restructuring would affect the work force.

Asea Brown Boveri's headquarters will be in Zurich, Switzerland, where Barnevick and 50 Swedish employees are scheduled to move.

Saudis to build pharmaceutical factory

RIYADH, Dec. 23, (Reuter) — A Saudi Arabian firm signed a contract today to build one of the largest pharmaceutical plants in the Middle East, designed to meet 40 per cent of Saudi demand.

The Saudi Company for Pharmaceutical Industries signed a 197 million riyal (\$55 million) contract with a West German-Saudi joint venture, Hoechst and Tamin and Fouad, to build the plant in the Qassim region north of Riyadh, a statement said.

Plant. Company chairman Saleh Al Umar told reporters the plant would produce 90 different types of drugs in capsule, tablet, ointment and liquid form. Construction will take 20 months.

The company is 60 per cent owned by the Saudi public through some 70,000 shareholders, 25 per cent by the Arab Company for Drug Industries, a pan-Arab group, six per cent by founders and nine per cent by the National Industries Corporation.

Future plans include plants to make medical equipment, X-ray film and veterinary medicines.

The pharmaceuticals project will be financed from capital of 300 million riyals (\$80 million). Umar said, Saudi Arabia now produces only liquid medicine.

Statement raises more questions than answers

G-7 declares common interest in stable dollar

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, (AP) — The United States and its six major economic allies declared yesterday that any further fall in the US dollar could damage world growth and vowed anew to work together "to foster stability of exchange rates."

The Group of Seven industrial nations, in its first pronouncement since the Oct. 19 stock market plunge, cited a "common interest" in a stable dollar — particularly in light of the recent financial market turmoil.

Unspecified.

The seven nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — agreed to take unspecified steps to keep the dollar, down roughly 50 percent against other key currencies since mid-1985, from sliding further.

At the same time, finance leaders of the seven nations agreed to move if necessary against a possible unexpected fluctuation in the dollar to an extent that becomes destabilising.

The joint statement, timed to coincide with final action on a US budget deficit reduction

measure, was a modified version of an exchange-rate pact reached last February in Paris.

Last night's statement contained no new policy initiative and was generally along lines anticipated by analysts.

However, it did serve notice that the industrial nations were likely to continue a coordinated policy of exchange rate intervention to help stabilise the dollar.

Brake.

Central banks like the Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan can help break a currency's fall through direct purchases on foreign exchange markets. However, the dollar fell to record lows against the West German mark and the Japanese yen in recent weeks despite massive intervention by central banks.

The new statement cited agreement among the seven nations "that either excessive fluctuation of exchange rates, a further decline of the dollar, or a rise in the dollar to an extent that becomes destabilising in the adjustment process, could be counterproductive by damaging growth prospects in the world

economy."

The senior US official suggested that finance leaders had decided upon upper target levels for the dollar, but did not wish to disclose them publicly.

In advance of the release of the statement, analysts had expected the seven nations to renew their commitment to a stable dollar. The statement itself did not appear to break any new ground, analysts suggested.

Conceded.

The joint communiqué conceded that the stock market collapse "may have some adverse effect on prospects for growth for the industrialised countries as a group." But it added: "With sound economic policies and effective coordination on the rate of growth should be substantial."

The document was released in Washington and in other Group of Seven capitals after US President Ronald Reagan signed legislation carrying out a compromise between the administration and Congress leaders to reduce the US budget deficit by

\$76 billion over two years.

The statement hailed that action as an example of the kind of economic coordination needed to correct world imbalances.

Stimulus.

It also praised recent interest rate cuts in Europe and economic stimulus packages in West Germany and Japan.

Many economists have blamed the huge US budget and trade imbalances as an underlying cause for the Oct. 19 stock market collapse.

The new statement — issued in lieu of a new meeting of the group — supersedes an exchange-rate pact reached last February in Paris. Under that so-called "Louvre Accord," the industrial nations agreed to support the dollar around its level at the time.

Under the agreement, named after the Paris landmark where it was signed, industrial governments agreed to take steps, including currency intervention, whenever the dollar fell below certain levels.

Although these levels were never disclosed, they were widely

believed to be around 140 yen and 1.8 marks. But since the October stock market plunge, the dollar plunged to levels far below these thresholds — to near 125 yen and 1.6 marks.

Yesterday's statement said

the finance leaders "re-emphasised their common interest in more stable exchange rates among their currencies and agreed to continue to cooperate closely in monitoring and implementing policies to strengthen underlying economic fundamentals to foster stability of exchange rates."

Criticism.

The joint statement directed criticism at "some newly industrialised economies," usually a reference to Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong, for maintaining surpluses of West Germany and Japan and the world.

But it noted that progress had been made in recent months in a reduction of the trade surpluses of West Germany and Japan and in a narrowing of the US trade deficit.

No plan to sell oil less than \$18: Oteiba

ABU DHABI, Dec. 23, (AP) — The United Arab Emirates oil minister said today his country will not sell its oil at less than the Opec-decreed price of \$18 a barrel.

"If that's not acceptable, then we have no oil to sell," Mana Saeed Oteiba told the official Emirates News Agency WAM, stressing that his country has been resisting pressures by importing companies to offer price discounts.

He also said that the UAE and other member states of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries were prepared to lower their production levels to defend the benchmark price. But he did not elaborate on this score.

The statements were made upon Oteiba's return from a trip that included participation in the bi-annual Opec ministerial session which was held in Vienna earlier this month.

After six days of wrangling over production and pricing policies, the Opec ministers in Vienna on Dec. 14 agreed on a

make-shift arrangement that maintained the official oil price of \$18 a barrel and the system of production controls based on a collective ceiling of 15.06 million barrels.

Iraq, excluded from the agreement because it could not gain a production quota equal to that of Iran, its enemy in the 7-year-old Gulf war, produces around 2.7 million barrels per day.

"The UAE will defend the agreement in cooperation with the other member states in Opec ... even if we have to reduce our output below the official quotas," Oteiba said.

There have been reports that the Opec ministers might be forced to convene an emergency session to reconsider their policies in face of a weak world oil market coupled with overproduction and underpricing by some member states.

The UAE which has a quota of 948,000 barrels a day, was estimated to be producing at the rate of 1.7 million barrels a day in November.

A SPECIAL SURVEY ON JAPAN

During the third week of January, 1988, Arab Times will publish a special survey on Japan during Japan Week in Kuwait

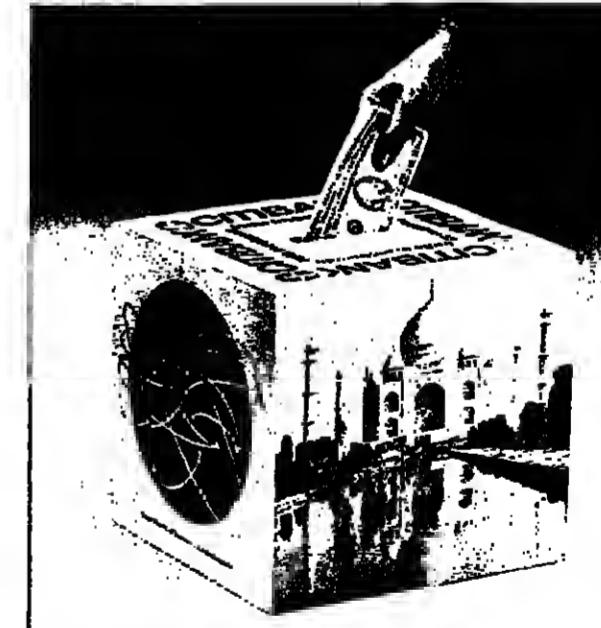
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2. Trade and Industry (Public and Joint sectors).
3. Technology.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1988

LONDON		LONDON	
(DAILY CHARTS)		(DAILY CHARTS)	
NAME LAST		NAME CLOSE OPEN	

ABBEY LFE	236/0	ICL	148/0
ALD LYONS	351/0	INI	184/0
AMSTRAD	118/0	JAGUAR	327/0
ARGYLL GP	191/0	LADBROKE	344/0
ASDA NFI	165/0	LAND SECS	476/0
A B FOODS	305/0	LAPORTE	393/0
BAA PP	93/0	LASMO	285/0
BTR	270/0	LEGAL-GEN	293/0
BAT INDS	453/0	APV PLC	129/0
BARCLAYS	465/0	AARONSON	117/0
BASS	823/0	LONRHO	256/0
BEAZER	173/0	MAGNET	215/0
BECHAMS	454/0	ACATOS+HT	448/0
BET DRG	232/0	ADDISON G	102/0
BICC PLC	342/0	ADWEST GP	273/0
BLUE ARKW	102/0	AIRLIA	140/0
BLUE CIRC	442/0	ALIANCE	208/0
BOC GP	397/0	ALD COLL	125/0
BOOTS CO	258/0	ALL PLAN	44/0
BPP INDS	268/0	APPLEYARD	335/0
BR COMM	318/0	RANK HVIS	321/0
BR AIRWAY	157/0	RANK ORG	570/0
BR AEROSP	355/0	RCKITTY+CO	800/0
BR GAS PP	125/0	REDLAND	410/0
B.P.	257/0	REED	395/0
B.P. NEW	71/6	RYL BK SC	365/0
BR TELCOM	228/0	PRUDENTIAL	835/0
BRITOIL	24.57	U-APL HOL	335/0
BUNZL	168/2	RACAL	235/0
BURNHOL	445/0	RANK OVS	570/0
BURTON	218/0	ROLLS ROY	122/0
CABLEWAIR	35.25	ROMTREE	456/0
CADBURYS	244/0	ROYAL INS	405/0
COATS VIY	277/0	SAATCHI	434/0
COMM UNI	353/0	SAINSBURY	222/0
COMS GOLD	948/0	SCOT+NEW	213/0
COOKSONS	530/0	SEARS	140/0
COURTAULD	344/0	SEGEWIC	220/0
DALGETY	319/0	SHELL	045/0
DEE CP	213/0	SMITH+NEPH	139/0
DIXONS	211/0	BERNOSE	184/0
ENG CHINA	394/0	STORENSE	255/0
ENTER OIL	275/0	SUN ALLIA	875/0
FERRANTI	88/0	BERISFORD	308/0
FISONS	267/0	TARMAC	239/0
GEN ACCIO		TATELYLE	783/0
GEN ELEC	167/0	BOASE MRS	240/0
GLAXO	050/0	BOODINGTO	138/0
GRANADA	307/0	BANKER LT	63/0
GLOBE	130/0	BARKER DO	158/0
GRAND MET	462/0	BENNETT	154/0
GUS A	140/0	BENNIEHL	143/0
GUARD RYL	870/0	BEPANHEM	184/0
HANSON	139/0	BEST ROY	380/0
HAWKER SID	457/0	BESTRON	292/0
HAWLEY	99/0	BILLITON	242/0
HILLSDOWN	280/0	BIXTON E	273/2
BRYANT HL	135/0	BRYANT HL	135/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-DR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORO	1419.4	1408.9	1405.1	1853.7
FT 500 SHR	0	975.4	976.5	1323.8
FT ALL SHR	0	884.84	884.50	1208.89
FT GOV SEC	0	88.19	88.21	85.95
FT GOLD MN	0	301.1	305.6	453.1
FT MINES F	0	445.62	429.94	688.22
FT OIL	0	1681.7	1682.6	2284.4
FT WLD DLR	115.86	115.35	115.35	136.44
FT WLD STG	93.84	93.66	93.66	124.45
FT WLD LOC	102.14	101.88	101.31	130.67

London Stock Market Report

U.K. SHARES FIRMER BUT VOLUME REMAINS LOW
LONDON, DEC 23 - SHARES RESUMED THEIR UPWARD MOVE IN VERY THIN TRADING AFTER A SHORT-LIVED DECLINE ON DISAPPOINTING U.K. BALANCE OF TRADE DATA FOR NOVEMBER, DEALERS SAID.

A FIRMER DOLLAR AND AN EARLY GAIN OF OVER 20 POINTS ON WALL STREET HELPED BUOY THE MARKET BUT TRADERS WERE AT PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT VOLUME WAS LOW AHEAD OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD AND THAT LITTLE COULD BE READ INTO TODAY'S RISE.

STOCKS HAD ALSO BEEN HURT THIS MORNING BY NEWS THAT THE U.K. GOVERNMENT WOULD USE ITS "GOLDEN SHARE" TO STOP BP FROM CONTROLLING THE BOARD OF BRITOIL. AT 1530 GMT THE FTSE 100 INDEX STOOD JUST BELOW ITS DAY'S HIGH, 19 POINTS HIGHER AT 1,766.4.

THE U.K. TREASURY SAID THAT IF A FORMAL OFFER IS MADE FOR BRITOIL OR IF ANYONE GAINED CONTROL OF OVER 50 PCT OF ITS SHARES THEN THE SPECIAL SHARE STILL ALLOWS THE GOVERNMENT TO OUTVOTE ALL OTHER SHAREHOLDERS ON ANY RESOLUTION.

BRITOIL SHARES FELL BACK FROM A HIGH OF 440P AFTER THE TREASURY STATEMENT TO STAND 15P HIGHER AT 427, BUT WERE STILL SECOND ON THE MOST ACTIVE LIST WITH OVER 19 MLN CHANGING HANDS. PARTLY-PAID BP SHARES, UNCHANGED AT 71-1/2P, WERE AGAIN THE MOST ACTIVE AND SPECULATION THAT KUWAIT WAS INCREASING ITS 17 PCT STAKE IN THE COMPANY. OVER 67 MLN NEW BP SHARES WERE TRADED. OLD BP SHARES WERE 5P HIGHER AT 257.

FURTHER DOLLAR GAINS INSPIRED REHEATED SELLING EARLY THIS AFTERNOON AND GOLD SLIPPED TO A LOW OF 480.25/480.75.

London Gold

LONDON, DEC 23 - GOLD BULLION CLOSED 75 CENTS LOWER AT 482.25/482.75 DLRs AN OUNCE WITH THE FIRMER PERFORMANCE OF THE DOLLAR THE MAIN FACTOR BEHIND THE SLIGHT DECLINE, DEALERS SAID.

THE METAL HAD OPENED FIRMER THIS MORNING AT 484.80/485.30 BOOSTED BY THE OVERNIGHT WEAKNESS OF THE U.S. CURRENCY. BUT A STATEMENT ON CURRENCY STABILITY BY 6-7 COUNTRIES HELPED REVERSE THE FORTUNES OF BOTH GOLD AND THE DOLLAR. GOLD WAS FIXED THIS MORNING AT 483.25.

FURTHER DOLLAR GAINS INSPIRED REHEATED SELLING EARLY THIS AFTERNOON AND GOLD SLIPPED TO A LOW OF 480.25/480.75.

London Money Market

LONDON, DEC 23 - MONEY RATES WERE MOSTLY UNCHANGED FROM YESTERDAY, WITH NEWS OF A HIGHER THAN EXPECTED DEFICIT ON THE U.K. CURRENT ACCOUNT IN NOVEMBER MAKING LITTLE IMPRESSION ON A PRE-CHRISTMAS MARKET, DEALERS SAID.

THE 595 MLN STG CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT, WHICH POINTS TO A WORSENING U.K. TRADE POSITION IN 1988 AND MAY PRESAGE NEW YEAR PRESSURE ON STERLING, UNDERPINNED THE RECENT RISE IN LONGER TERM RATES BUT FAILED TO STIMULATE ANY FRESH UPWARD PRESSURE.

STERLING WAS SUPPORTED TODAY BY FIRM OIL PRICES, BUT DEALERS SAID TURNOVER IN ALL MARKETS WAS LOW DUE TO SEASONAL FACTORS AND PREDICTING TRENDS WAS HAZARDOUS.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR
1.8225/25	1.8215/25	1.6370/80	5.5340/90
2.978/992	2.9830/75	10.0755/0915	NOON
2.5335/6415	2.5335/5455	29.515/675	FIX
10.0780/0960	337.7/338.3	448/450	FIX
2.4201/4223	81.09/20	25.99/24.04	1300
1.8430	3.3620	12.57	33.31
1.25067	0.691914	2.06497	6.98409
0.58205	2.26160	7.65033	FIX
230.97/231.31			NOON
22/12/1987	OTHERS	23/12/1987	

BUCKLEYS	173/0	173/0	HIGGS+HIL	282/0	282/0
BULMER HP	157/0	158/0	H'LND'S	78/0	78/0
BURGESS	217/0	217/0	HILL SAM	801/0	805/0
U-CPU COM	88/0	88/0	U-HOBSON	48/0	48/0
CALEDONIA	320/0	320/0	READICUT	70/0	70/0
CAMP INST	56/0	56/0	REED GRP.	194/0	195/0
CAMPBELL	208/0	208/0	REFUGE GR.	423/0	430/0
CAMP ELECT	208/0	208/0	REGALION	69/0	67/0
CANNING W	179/0	180/0	ROTHSCHILD	129/0	128/0
CARADON	162/0	161/0	AAR CORP	18/6	18/6
CARLESS C	95/4	97/0	ALTAIR LIFE	44/6	45/0
CARLTON C	660/0	650/0	ALASKA AIR	14/4	14/3
CHRISTIES	394/0	395/0	ALCAN ALUM	27/6	27/3
CHAS.CHR	98/0	99/0	ALCO STAND	21/1	21/0
CHAS.CHR	19/0	20/0	AM CAP SEC	23/6	23/5
CHIPEX	340/0	340/0	AMER CYANA	43/4	43/5
CHIPEX	116/0	115/0	AMER CYANA	14/5	14/6
CHIPEX	268/0	268/0	AMER CYANA	140/0	138/0
CHIPEX	101/0	105/0	AMER CYANA	44/0	43/4
COALITE	339/0	339/0	KALON	104/0	104/0
COATES CR	343/0	345/0	KENDY.BRK	237/0	240/0
COFFEE	65/0	54/0	KETSON	69/0	69/0
COLMAG	264/0	263/0	KLMRD-BNS	215/0	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24-25, 1987

International Bond Highlights

TOKYO — Purchases of US Treasury securities by Japanese institutions in 1988 are likely to be limited by continued concern about foreign exchange losses, bond managers said.

Interest Rates

	CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN	8-1/2 1/4	8-5/8 1/2	NINE 8-7/8
FFT	3.30/40	3.75/80	3.70/75
PAR	7-3/4 13/16	7-15/16 8-1/16	8-1/2 5/8
ZUR	7/8 1-1/8	3-1/2 3-3/4	3-3/8 3-5/8
BRX	3.55	6-9/16 11/16	6-3/4 7/8
RON	10-1/8 10-5/8	11-1/4 11-3/4	11-1/4 11-3/4
AHS	4-7/16 4-9/16	4-9/16 4-11/16	4-11/16 4-3/4
TOK	3.8125 8750	4.0000 0625	3.8750 9375
ECU	6.18 6.43	7.18 7.31	7.18 7.31

Interest Rates

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait, yesterday.

KD interest rate

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	3-9/16	4-1/8
3 months	4-9/16	5-1/8
6 months	5-1/4	5-3/4
1 year	5-7/16	5-15/16

BOMBAY

	PR CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GNFC	30.25	30	30.50	MODIALKALI	6.25	--	--
ACC	155	154	155	GRAYTON120	--	--	--	KARMDACHAT	--	--	--
ARHADAVY	--	--	--	GSFC	87	86	87	OKRAT	24	24	23-50
ARHADAVY400	--	--	--	GUJETRO	23.50	22.50	23.50	PREMAUTO	24.50	24.50	24
ANDRA CEM	11.50	11.25	11.50	GMALIORON	95	94.50	95	RAYMOND CO	--	--	--
ANDRA VLT	--	--	--	HINDALCO	114	113	114.50	RAYMONDOL	88	87	88
BAJAJ AUTO	4375	4400	4575	HYD LAMPS	--	--	--	RELIANCE	108	107	108
BAR RATON	150	150	150	IND ORG	24	23.50	24	SPIC	28.75	29	28.50
BOM DYLNG	91.25	90.50	97.50	INDRAYON	53	53.50	53	STD MILLS	200	200	205
BOMBAY STOCK PRICES	407.92	434.51	457.50	INDROL	186.25	182.50	182.50	STDMEDICAL	13.50	--	--
BSE INDEX	407.92	434.51	457.50	ITC	41	40	41	STEELTUBE	10.50	--	--
CENTURYSPG	657.50	652.50	657.50	ITC CD	--	--	--	TATA PNB	192.50	185	190
COLGATE	192	193	194	JPIC	--	--	--	TATACHEM	66.50	67	67
DEPAKERT	31.75	31.50	32	JISYNTH	60.50	59.50	60.50	TATAOIL	82	82	83
DHARMENT	--	--	--	L A T	79	79	79	TELCO	370	365	370
FICON ORG	--	--	--	MAGHAARD	--	--	--	UDAIPHOSPH	--	--	--
GARHPOLT	--	--	--	MAHINDRA	53	52	53.50	VOLTAS	305	295	305

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLOSE
AEG	210.6	212.6
ALLIANZ VR	1215.0	1212.0
BADEMERK	179.5	183.5
BASF	263.3	262.5
BAIER HYP	275.8	272.1
BAYER VER	326.0	328.0
BBC	285.5	285.5
BFH	324.0	323.0
BHF	480.0	477.0
CHEMIE-VER	126.0	120.0
COMERZBK	226.0	225.0
CONTI GUMM	228.0	230.0
DAIMEI BEN	609.0	615.5
DEUTSC BNK	412.9	411.5
DLW	306.50	310.0
DRESDNER B	238.5	237.5
DTFARBOCK	1623.0	1585.0
FAZ INDEX	439.51	440.89
GOLDSCHMID	232.0	235.0
GUTENOFF	0	0
HARPERNE	367.0	359.5
HOECHST AG	263.9	261.7
HOESCH	94.1	95.1
HORTEN	164.0	162.0
HUSSEL HLD	450.0	452.0
KALI SAL2	124.0	125.0
KARSTADT	459.0	454.0
KAUFHOF	433.5	430.0
KLOECK N	85.5	84.5
KLOECK W	0	80.0
LINDE	538.0	535.0
LUFTTRANSA	133.0	132.0
MAN	144.5	143.0
MANNESMAN	111.5	111.2
MERCDES	477.0	477.5
METALLGES	238.9	235.0
MIXDORF	584.0	573.5
NOKSI HYD	36.50	35.00
PHILIP KOM	621.0	618.0
PORSCHE	442.0	437.0
PREUSSAG	121.0	122.0
PMA	181.0	182.0
RHEIN	216.8	218.0
RHEIN P	205.2	206.9
RHEINMETAL	236.2	238.0
RELMANDER	265.0	266.0
SCHERING	358.0	364.5
SEL	292.0	288.0
SIEMENS	375.5	375.1
TNTSEN	108.6	109.5
VARTA	233.5	231.0
VEBA	273.6	274.2
VEN	163.0	162.5
VOLKSWAGEN	234.0	235.5

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLOSE
AJJINMOTO	3270	3290
AKAI ELEC	435	435
AOKI	970	980
ASANI GAS	1770	1800
ASAHI OPT	544	530
BANK TOKYO	1340	1350
BRIDGESTON	1240	1220
CANON	975	952
CASIO COMP	1160	1130
CHUGAI HNG	0	1490
CITIZEN W	500	499
D-ICHI KAN	2850	2850
DAI NIP IK	736	751
DAI NIP PT	2350	2320
DAI NIP SE	850	845
DAI NIP TO	443	448
DAIICHI	767	751
DAIMA N	1670	1690
DAIMA SEC	1760	1790
EISAI	2060	2080
FUJITSU	1200	1210
FUJI BANK	3120	3100
FUJI PHOTO	4120	4050
FUJISAWA	1870	1910
FUJITA CP	685	700
NITACHI	1200	1200
HONDA MOT	1340	1330
ISETAN	1360	1350
ITO TOKADO	3820	3810
JAP SY RU	959	931
JAPAN AIR	13500	13600
JAPAN MET	420	422
KAIJIMA	1500	1540
KANSAI EL	2770	2830
KAO SOAP	1840	1840
KAWASAKI N	251	254
KAWASAKI S	342	345
KIRIN BREW	2090	2100
KONATSU	625	628
KUBATO LTD	543	547
KYOCERA	5450	5280
MAKITA EL	1630	1630
MARUI	2930	2940
MATSUTA EI	2220	2180
MATSUTA EL	2100	2120
MEIJI SEIK	946	945

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE DOWN BUT OFF LOWS IN THIN TRADE
TOKYO, DEC 23 - SHARE PRICES FELL AS THE RELEASE OF A GROUP OF SEVEN STATEMENT REDUCED BUT FAILED TO ERASE BEARISH SENTIMENT IN SLUGGISH TRADE, BROKERS SAID.
THE NIKKEI AVERAGE SHED 47.75 POINTS, OR 0.21 PCT., TO 22,693.85, AFTER HITTING A LOW OF 22,594.73, THE INDEX LOST 215.82 POINTS ON TUESDAY. DECLINES LED ADVANCES FIVE TO THREE IN TURNOVER OF 350 NMN SHARES AGAINST 400 NMN ON TUESDAY.
SECURITIES HOUSE, CREDIT/LEASE, BANK, INSURANCE, AIRLINE, CONSTRUCTION, RAILWAY/BUS AND COMMUNICATIONS SHARES DECLINED. BUT ELECTRICAL, PRECISION, PULP/PAPER, RUBBER AND SOME MANUFACTURING ISSUES ADVANCED.
THE G-7 STATEMENT WHICH SAID EXCESSIVE EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS, A FURTHER DECLINE OR A DESTABILIZING RISE BY THE DOLLAR WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE SOOTHED SOME NERVES, BUT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO CONSIDERABLY SWAT THE MARKET, BROKERS SAID.
"I WOULDN'T SAY IT'S AN OVERWHELMINGLY RESOUNDING RESPONSE," ONE BROKER SAID.
"THE MARKET HAD LARGELY DISCOUNTED THE NEWS," ANOTHER SAID. "IT WAS NOTTING SUBSTANTIAL."<

KD deposit rates fall to new '87 lows

KUWAITI dinar interbank deposit rates remained low yesterday as fresh liquidity came into the market, driving one-month funds to their lowest level this year.

Dealers said there were no signs of the Kuwaiti Central Bank stepping in to mop up excess liquidity and one trader suggested it may even have added funds by placing small amounts of cash on deposit with a few banks.

Fresh funds came from an influx of government salaries onto bank accounts and dealers said the market is set to stay liquid. Some KD54 million in outstanding bills matured yesterday and no new offerings are planned at the moment.

Eased

In the short-dates, tomorrow next and spot-next maturities were indicated at a nominal two, one per cent, while one-month funds eased to 3-1/8, three per cent from four, 3-1/2 on Tuesday.

Longer-dated maturities held soft around Tuesday levels. Two-months was quoted at 4-1/4, 3-3/4 per cent, three-months at 5/4, 4-1/2, six months at 5-3/4, 1/4 and one-year at six, 5-1/2.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits traded barely changed in a thin end-of-year market yesterday, with a few banks seeking short-dated funds to clear up remaining open positions.

Dealers reported no impact from the overnight Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations' statement on currency stabilisation and the Saudi riyal — which is pegged to the dollar — was quietly steady at 3.7499/7503 after Tuesday's 3.7502/06.

Earlier this week riyal deposits rose on the back of news the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (Sama) was relaxing repurchase agreement rules — interpreted as an indirect signal it wanted to set higher rates. But deposits have now settled back again.

The riyal market has now more or less wound down for the year-end.

Vietnam to get Kuwaiti soft loan

KUWAIT will provide Vietnam with a soft loan of KD4.1 million for a flood water project under an agreement signed in Kuwait yesterday.

Officials at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Gulf state's aid agency, said the loan would account for 27 per cent of the finance for the project to divert and regulate flood waters.

The loan at 2-1/2 per cent annual interest would be repaid over 17 years after a five-year grace period.

Dollar firm and gold steady

LONDON, Dec 23. (Reuter): Leading industrial countries have made a long-awaited joint call for a steadier dollar, but currency and share dealers said today it may have come too late and offered too little to have much impact.

The dollar firmed, gold was steady and shares were mixed. London stocks edged higher while Tokyo, the world's biggest market, slipped back slightly.

Dealers said they had hoped the Group of Seven industrial nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Canada — would act to buoy financial markets, still jittery after the global stock markets crash in mid-October and after seeing the dollar hit historic lows last week.

Destabilising

"A further decline of the dollar, or a rise in the dollar to an extent that becomes destabilising to the adjustment process, could be counterproductive by damaging growth prospects in the world economy," the G-7 said in a joint statement yesterday.

Rose

In early trading today, the dollar rose just over 1.5 pence and two-thirds of a yen to touch bights of 1.6445 West German marks and 127.15 yen. It then edged back to trade below 1.64 marks and 127 yen. Gold was

fixed in London this evening at \$482.00 an ounce. \$1 less from yesterday's close.

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, and West Germany's Finance and Economics Ministers, Gerhard Stoltenberg and Martin Bangemann, said in separate remarks this morning that the dollar is at present under-valued.

Slipped

Lawson added in a British radio interview: "International cooperation very much alive and well. Whether or not the dollar will fall further or not I don't know. I think that there is common will, and I think that will includes the United States, to try and ensure that it doesn't."

"Under free market conditions, the dollar price is ultimately determined by supply and demand. G-7 statements can only have a temporary effect as long as the supply of dollars exceeds demand," said Bob Bauer, senior dealer at Commerzbank AG in Frankfurt. He thinks the dollar could fall in 1.60 marks.

That sort of fear, said stockbrokers in Europe and Japan, kept a lid on share prices.

A weak dollar cuts export sales of European and Asian firms by pricing their goods off the US and giving their American com-

petitors an edge elsewhere.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225-share index slipped 47.17 points to 22,693.85. London edged higher, with the benchmark FTSE 100-share index up 13.1 points to a morning high of 1,760.5, before easing slightly.

Frankfurt's 30-share Boersen-Zeitung index opened 0.19 points lower at 281.76 and Paris shares

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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SPORTS

AMARNATH JUSTIFIES RECALL TO SQUAD

W. Indies beat India to take 2-0 lead

GAIHATI, India, Dec. 23. (Reuter): West Indies tamed what skipper Viv Richards called a devil in the Gauhati pitch to beat India in the second one-day international today and take a 2-0 lead in the eight-match series.

Richards led from the front with a fighting innings of 41 on a turning wicket and claimed the vital wicket of his Indian counterpart Dilip Vengsarkar to pave the way for a 52-run victory.

Gentle

India were bundled out for 135 in 41.3 overs in reply to West Indies' 45-over total of 187 for seven.

"There was a devil in the wicket. The ball was keeping very low... it was a bowlers' game," Richards said.

The West Indies captain quickly established mastery over left-arm spinners Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri after two wickets fell to the gentle medium pace of Mohinder Amarnath. He cut and drove with authority, scoring his 41 off 52 deliveries before being stumped off Shastri.

Richards' wicket was the first of three Shastri collected as Indian newspapers carried



Amarnath put in a fine performance

after missing the recent World Cup with two for 21 off nine overs.

Amarnath completed a fine all-round performance with a top score of 33 hut, Vengsarkar and Kapil Dev apart, he received little support from his teammates.

Vengsarkar was going well on 24 when he mishit a shot off Richards straight to Roger Harper at mid on. "Vengsarkar's wicket was the vital one. Once he was out, I thought we had the game," Richards said.

While Kapil Dev was at the wicket, India always had a slim chance of scoring their first one-day triumph over West Indies since the World Cup final in 1983.

But he was left stranded on 22 not out when the lower order batsmen capitulated to accurate pace bowling by Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson.

Walsh finished with four for 16 in 7.3 overs.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES
D. Haynes b Maninder
P. Simmons c Srikanth
B. Amarnath

R. Richards c More b Amarnath 10
Viv Richards st More b Shastri 41
G. Logie lbw b Kapil Dev 34
C. Hooper c Kapil Dev b Shastri 2
R. Harper not out 18
W. Benjamin st More b Shastri 4
J. Dujon not out 13
Did not bat: C. Walsh, P. Patterson
Extras (lb-12, w-2) 14
Total (for seven wickets) 187
Fall of wickets: 1-40, 2-62, 3-74, 4-
143, 5-145, 6-163, 7-170.
Bowling: Kapil Dev 9-1-47-1; Prabakar 4-0-22-0; Maninder 9-3-19-1;
Amarnath 9-1-21-2; Shastri 9-0-30-3;
Ayub 5-0-26-0; Walsh 4-0-36-2.

INDIA

K. Srikanth b Walsh 1
A. Gaekwad b Benjamin 12
M. Amarnath c Richardson 12
b Hooper 33
D. Vengsarkar & Harper 24
b Richards 22
M. Azharuddin c & b Hooper 3
Kapil Dev not out 22
R. Shastri b Walsh 1
K. More c Dujon b Patterson 1
M. Prabhakar lbw b Walsh 1
A. Ayub run out 6
Maninder Singh b Walsh 0
Extras (b-8, lb-8, w-4) 20
Total (41.3 overs) 135
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-25, 3-33, 4-
89, 5-89, 6-117, 7-118, 8-123, 9-135.
Bowling: Patterson 8-2-20-1,
Walsh 7-3-2-16-4, Benimola 5-1-5-1,
Harper 9-0-21-0, Richards 8-0-37-1,
Hooper 4-1-10-2.

Ashes may leave England for first time in 60 years

New Zealand defeat Prime Minister's XI

Rutherford stakes claim for 3rd Test

CANTERBURY, Dec. 23. (Reuter):

Opener Ken Rutherford boosted his claims for a recall to the New Zealand side for the third Test against Australia with a top score of 63 as the touring team cruised to a 37-run victory over the Prime Minister's XI in their 50-overs-a-side match today.

After scoring 201 in 49.5 overs, New Zealand dismissed the Prime Minister's XI for 164 in 46.2 overs.

Build

Mark Taylor and Greg Matthews gave the home side the platform on which to build a winning score with an opening stand of 59. But off-spinner John Bracewell ripped the heart out of the innings by taking four wickets and from then on the Prime Minister's XI were always struggling.

Bracewell, second highest scorer behind Rutherford with 39, finished with four for 40 to win the Man of the Match award.

He just edged out local bowler Greg Irvine, who had ripped through the touring side's lower order after lunch, taking five for 42 in 7.5 overs.

New Zealand skipper Jeff Crowe continued his run of low scores managing only six before falling to off-spinner Greg Matthews.

Crowe, despite a meagre total of 47 runs in two Tests, intends to

play in the series decider this weekend.

Crowe's attempts to bat himself into form since mid-November have been painful to watch - his Test scores were 16, 12, 0 and 19 — but he is not about to stand down for the third and final Test starting here on Saturday.

"There's no way I won't play in the third Test. I'm going through a bad trot and I've just got to keep working at it," Crowe said.

Australia, 1-0 up in the series, have their own problems with Bruce Reid fighting against the odds to be fit for the Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Reid, far and away Australia's most versatile bowler, missed most of the drawn second Test in Adelaide with a ricked back which is still troubling him.

Reid and fellow paceman Merv Hughes, who is suffering from a pulled hamstring, face final fitness tests tomorrow.

Philip Horne will probably edge out Rutherford to claim the troubled opening spot alongside John Wright after hitting a century in the drawn game against Tasmania last weekend.

Fast-medium bowler Ewen Chatfield, surprisingly dropped for the second Test, is likely to return to the fold for a game in which his nagging accuracy

could help to control the in-form David Boon and Allan Border.

But New Zealand's greatest chance of victory and squaring the series seems to lie in taking advantage of the probable absence of Reid.

The touring side amassed 485 for nine declared once Reid left the field injured in Adelaide, with Andrew Jones and in particular Martin Crowe treating the depleted Australian attack with something nearing contempt.

The lanky Western Australian bowler looked anything but fit when he worked out on Monday and, like Hughes, he will have to rely on a wish to Father Christmas in order to be fit for Boxing Day.

Mike Whitney, currently on standby, will probably be picked for his first Test in six years if Reid is deemed unfit.

Teams:
Australia (from) — Allan Border (captain), David Boon, Geoff Marsh, Dean Jones, Mike Veletta, Steve Waugh, Greg Dyer, Peter Sleep, Tim May, Craig McDermott, Bruce Reid, Mike Whitney, Merv Hughes.

New Zealand — to be announced.

Scoreboard
NEW ZEALAND
P. Horne b Dodemaide

K. Rutherford b Irvine

M. Crowe run out 6

J. Crowe & Taylor b Matthews 27

D. Patel c M. Waugh b Irvine 39

R. Hadlee c Border b Irvine 2

J. Smith c & b Irvine 5

M. Spedden c & b Irvine 14

W. Watson b Capes 0

E. Chatfield not out 0

Extras (lb-6, w-11, nb-3) 20

Total (201 overs) 49.5 overs

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-49, 3-61, 4-
127, 5-153, 6-158, 7-170, 8-197, 9-
197.

Bowling: Hickey 9-0-45-0 (5w,

1nb), Capes 8-3-19-2 (1w),

Dodemaide 10-2-33-1, Matthews 10-
3-31, Waugh 5-0-26-0 (4w, 2nb),
Irvine 7-0-42-5 (1w).

PRIME MINISTER'S XI

M. Taylor & J. Crowe b Bracewell 32

G. Matthews c Chatfield 32

b Bracewell 34

T. Moody st Smith b Bracewell 9

M. Waugh c Spedden b Watson 35

D. Hooker c Patel b Bracewell 0

G. Irvine c Bracewell b Watson 14

A. Border run out 12

T. Dodemaide run out 0

R. Soule lbw b Hadlee 6

P. Capes not out 5

J. Hickey & Hadlee 3

Extras (lb-1, w-7, nb-5, nb-1) 14

Total (46.2 overs) 164

Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-81, 3-85, 4-
90, 5-136, 6-142, 7-144, 8-155, 9-160.

Bowling: Hadlee 8-2-3-16-2 (1nb),

Chatfield 10-2-20-0 (1w), Spedden 7-
1-29-0, Bracewell 10-1-40-4, Rutherford 4-0-22-0 (4w), Watson 7-1-22-2.

Orange Bowl

MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec. 23. (AP): Top-seeded Nicklas Kulli of Sweden lost yesterday to Argentina's Mario Stringari in third-round boys' 16 play at the Orange Bowl international tennis championships.

With 5-6 guard Alton Byrd firing passes through the Tarheel defence and Way, with frontcourt mates Dave Gardner, Pete Mullings and Jason Fouerty, holding Reid and Scott Williams to four points each, the British dominated the first half.

New Zealand — to be announced.

Reid leads Tarheel comeback

heel rally midway through the second half.

"We were too cocky going into the game and considering Britain had been together only three days they took the game right to us," North Carolina coach Dean Smith said.

Ralton Way, a 6-foot-10 centaur from Crystal Palace who played college ball at Houston Baptist, was the game's high scorer with 32 points.

Steve Bucknall, who played

for Crystal Palace before going to North Carolina, had 18 points for the Tarheels.

"It was a great game," Bucknall said.

Floyd and Leavell take Rockets over Hawks

over to their big men."

"After using 14-3 and 10-0 second-quarter spurts for a 62-48 half-time lead, the Rockets scored the first 10 points of the third quarter and overcame a 15-2 surge by Atlanta to hold a 95-76 advantage going into the final period.

Mavericks 111, Bulls 100

Mark Aguirre scored 32 points for Dallas, but ironically none of them came in the fourth quarter when the Mavericks pulled away from Chicago.

The Mavericks outscored the Bulls 16-4 early in the final period to extend a six-point lead to 101-83 with 6:33 left. The Bulls, who got 28 points from Michael Jordan, got no closer than 11 thereafter.

Derek Harper scored 20 points and James Donaldson had 18 rebounds for the Mavericks, who swept both games of the season series with Chicago.

Celtics 118, 76ers 115

Boston, which lost by 31 points in its last game at Philadelphia, rallied down the stretch to beat the 76ers at the spectrum for the first time in two years.

Larry Bird scored nine of his 31 points in the final five minutes for the Celtics, who trailed 110-109 with 1:33 to play when Bird tossed in a 3-pointer to put Boston ahead to stay.

Charles Barkley, who led all scorers with 40 points, had a chance to tie with 31 seconds remaining, but missed the second of two free throws to make it 112-111. Dennis Johnson scored 20 points for Boston, while Cliff Robinson had 26 for the 76ers.

Nuggets 119, Suns 104

Denver stayed a half-game

ahead of Dallas in the Midwest Division as Alex English scored 16 of his 26 points in the first quarter against Phoenix.

The Nuggets got 24 points and 10 rebounds from Danny

Gatting unrepentant over row



Gatting, surrounded by police, wheels his luggage through the arrivals gate at Heathrow airport. (Reuter radiophoto)

the England cricketers because of the problems encountered on the Pakistan tour.

"It was not a question of us demanding the money," he said. "It came to us completely out of the blue. We knew nothing about it."

Meanwhile in the recently concluded series, Asim Malik of Pakistan and John Emburey of England topped the batting averages while Abdul Qadir and Neil Foster came out on top in the bowling averages.

Test averages

England Batting and fielding

	M	I	No	R	HS	100	50	Ave	C/Sr
J. E. Emburey	3	6	3	207	74*	2	26.00	-	-
G. A. Gooch	3	6	5	225	93*	2	23.75	34.67	3/1
B. A. Head	3	6	5	234	115*	2	34.00	3	

